

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Lessons of the
Algerian Revolution

— PAGES 8-10

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 65/NO. 23 JUNE 11, 2001

Minnesota meat packers protest line speed

BY SAMUEL FARLEY
AND FRANCISCO PICADO

ST. PAUL, Minnesota—Workers at the Long Prairie Packing plant in Long Prairie, Minnesota, stopped production in the boning department for an hour and a half May 8, demanding that the bosses slow down the speed of the production line.

The Long Prairie plant is one of three cut-and-kill operations owned by Rosen's Diversified Inc., the seventh-largest beef packer in the country. The workers belong to Local 789 of the United Food and Commercial Workers union (UFCW).

Local 789 also organizes workers at Dakota Premium Foods, a plant located in South St. Paul and owned by Rosen's Diversified. Workers there won a union election in July of 2000 following a June 1 sit-down strike. Despite that victory, the union has not yet been recognized officially there. The National Labor Relations Board has still not issued an answer to an appeal of the elections that the company filed last November.

"We were working on bull carcasses, which are normally run at a slower speed, but that morning they were running the line at 136 carcasses per hour," Rodolfo, a shank boner at Long Prairie who took part in the May 8 job action, said in an interview.

"Not only did they run the line faster, but they were demanding quality as well, demanding that the bones be completely clean," he said about the bosses. "Pretty soon, pieces began to pile up at the work stations in several operations, so we began

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Youth sign up for Cuba-U.S. gathering

BY TOM FISKE

MINNEAPOLIS—"A good number of young people in Minnesota are interested in attending the Youth Exchange in Havana in order to check out the Cuban Revolution for themselves," said Nate Paulsen, a student at the University of Minnesota. Paulsen is the organizer of the Youth Exchange Information Center here.

The Second Cuba-U.S. Youth Exchange will take place in Havana July 22-30. Dozens of young people from the United States will be going to Cuba to learn about the revolution there and exchange experiences with Cuban youth. The event is sponsored by several youth organizations on the island, including the Federation of University Students and the Union of Young Communists. Young people in a number of U.S. cities are making plans to go, and in some places organizing groups like the one in Minneapolis to build the event more broadly.

"Each Thursday evening, 10 to 15 young people and others meet here to organize outreach and fund-raising," Paulsen said. "We also discuss how to obtain licenses from

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100,000 Cubans demand: 'U.S. Navy out of Vieques!'

Puerto Rican pro-independence leaders address Havana rally

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

At least 100,000 Cubans rallied in front of the U.S. Interests Section in Havana May 26 to support the struggle in Puerto Rico to demand the U.S. Navy stop its bombing and war training on the island of Vieques. The demonstrators called on Washington to free the dozens of people who have been tried and jailed for entering the Navy's firing zone in Vieques to protest bombing practices carried out by U.S. forces in late April.

The huge action was part of the weekly rallies and speakouts that for more than a year have been organized every Saturday in Havana, usually to protest and educate on Washington's four-decade-long aggression against the Cuban Revolution. It was the first time one of these rallies focused on a struggle taking place in another country.

The demonstration coincided with a May 23-25 regional seminar held in Havana by the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization. The committee will be holding its annual hearings on the colonial status of Puerto Rico on June 21-22 at the UN headquarters in New York.

"It was a resounding act of solidarity by the Cuban people with our struggle," said Wilma Reverón, a pro-independence activist, in a phone interview from San Juan. Reverón had just returned from Havana, where she took part in the decolonization seminar as vice president of the Lawyers Guild of Puerto Rico.

A number of Cuban and Puerto Rican speakers addressed the rally, held at the José

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Waving Cuban and Puerto Rican flags, 100,000 people rallied in front of U.S. Interests Section in Havana May 26 backing Puerto Ricans' call for a halt to U.S. Navy bombing on the island of Vieques and the release of all those jailed for protesting in Vieques. In San Juan, Puerto Rico, several thousand demonstrated May 28 with the same demands.

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Oppose N.Y. 'antiterror' verdict, threat of death penalty—page 14

Amid cease-fire talk, Israeli government attacks Palestinians

BY PATRICK O'NEILL

The day after Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon claimed that he had placed curbs on military action against Palestinians, residents of the Rafah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip reported they had come under fire from Israeli infantry and tank forces. Some 45 Palestinians had been wounded, said officials of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), 10 of them by shrapnel from an exploding tank shell.

In his May 22 statement, summarized in the *Ha'aretz* newspaper, Sharon said that the Israeli forces could fire "in case lives are endangered; to rescue civilians or soldiers; in direct reaction in case of verifiable identification of the precise source of fire; and in special cases involving IDF [Israeli Defense Forces] entry into Palestinian Authority-controlled areas."

In the weeks before the declaration, Israeli forces had mounted a number of raids into such areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, using helicopters, tanks, and bulldozers in their attacks and to demolish houses and farmland to clear their lines of fire. Tel Aviv also unleashed F-16 fighter bombers in May 18 strikes against PNA security installations.

Palestinian officials cited by *Ha'aretz* noted that Sharon had dubbed this announcement a "cease-fire, when actually, [he] merely ordered the IDF to refrain from offensive operations." The announcement, they said, was designed to defuse growing international criticism of the IDF's actions in the territories, and "to blur the fact that this is an occupation, not a war between two armies."

U.S. envoy lectures Palestinians

U.S. president George Bush, on the other hand, praised Sharon for his May 22 announcement. As part of a new diplomatic initiative from Washington, Bush appointed William Burns as the new U.S. Mideast envoy. Burns, who has been the U.S. ambassador to Jordan, met Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Sharon separately May 27. The U.S. diplomat used his meeting with Arafat to condemn car bombings in downtown

Jerusalem earlier that day. Taking the same position as the Israeli government, he urged Arafat "to do everything possible to stop such attacks."

Washington is presenting the report by a committee headed by former U.S. senator George Mitchell, which was established under the previous administration of William Clinton, as a basis for negotiations. The foreign minister in the Israeli coalition government, Shimon Peres of the Labor Party, originally objected to a statement in the report that "the cessation of Palestinian-Israeli violence will be particularly hard to sustain unless Israel freezes all settlement construction activity."

On May 23 Peres said that he accepts the freeze "in principle." At a cabinet meeting Sharon and Peres stated that according to the Mitchell report, a settlement freeze would "come only after a cease-fire and a cooling-off period," reported *Ha'aretz*. A government spokesperson said, "If we accept the Mitchell report from A to Z, the discussion of the settlements will arrive about the letter X."

Since the unrest stepped up in October last year the expansion of the settlements has continued apace, including with the construction of new roads and buffer zones—as always, at the expense of Palestinian farms and homes. On May 13 the government reaffirmed a decision of the previous government of Labor prime minister Ehud Barak to construct a new ring road in Jerusalem, stretching from the north to south of the city. On this occasion, reported *Ha'aretz*, Peres opposed the move, saying that "this work requires the confiscation of Arab land and the demolition of homes, [making] Jerusalem a focus of international anger."

The Israeli rulers also take advantage of the actions of the rightists who set the political tone for many of the settlements. A typical tactic of such forces involves the setting up of mobile homes on disputed land, followed by demands for assistance from the government and military.

A *New York Times* article in November of last year indicated the character of the settle-



Palestinian women walk past the Zionist settlement of Har Homa under construction in the occupied West Bank. The Israeli regime is expanding the number of settlements that dot the West Bank and Gaza Strip on confiscated land, providing a base for rightist attacks and Israeli military assaults against the Palestinian people.

ments as outposts of the Zionist state inside the West Bank and Gaza. The 17 settlements in the Gaza Strip, reported the article, were "established in the 1970s and '80s. [They] were distributed in a way that was intended to strengthen Israeli control, breaking up the territorial unity of Palestinian communities, which could serve as the basis for a future state."

The *Financial Times* reported on Palestinian farmer Ibrahim al Tus, 81, who inherited a small farm from his grandfather. Over the past several years the threat of attacks from settlers who have illegally occupied the ridge above his farm has prevented him from tending crops. He was beaten up when he had to drive his tractor through the settlement to the farm. "I'd be happy for the settlers to live next to me as a neighbor," al Tus told the *Times*, "if they respected me as a human being."

The paper noted that although the settlements account for only about 2 percent of the land in the West Bank, they "have had a pervasive and destructive effect on attempts at Palestinian nation building." The *Times* added that "bitterness has intensified as Israeli security forces have razed large areas

of vegetation, destroyed trees and demolished houses to create buffers around the Jewish zones."

Didi Remez, a spokesperson for Peace Now, said that to "go from Hebron in the south [of the West Bank] to Jenin in the north, you would be stopped at least 20–30 times by Israeli checkpoints."

Meanwhile, the Israeli minister of labor and social affairs, Shlomo Beizri, has instructed the police to arrest and deport a minimum of 1,000 "illegal" workers a month. "I don't call this deportation, I call it returning them to their country of origin," he said on May 14. "I'm not afraid of the bleeding hearts."

Many workers have traveled to Israel from Eastern Europe and elsewhere since Tel Aviv clamped down on the occupied territories, blocking tens of thousands from traveling to their jobs in Israel. In a May 13 *Ha'aretz* column, Gideon Levy cited official statistics that place the number of foreign workers at 130,000. He reported that Filipino, African, Romanian, and Thai workers "live in overcrowded sections of destitute city neighborhoods, and on the rough periphery of moshav and village communities."

Workers walk out at Jeffboat in Indiana

BY JIM HORN

FLOYDS KNOBS, Indiana—During the first week in May, hundreds of workers went on strike at Jeffboat, the largest barge builder in the United States. Jeffboat is located in Jeffersonville, Indiana, directly across from Louisville, Kentucky.

Workers rejected the company's "last, best, and final" offer with comments like, "The negotiators shouldn't have even brought this back for a vote." Strikers told the press that under the proposed contract they would receive a 12 percent pay increase but incur a 15 percent hike in medical insurance costs. After voting down the company's offer, the unionists, members of Teamsters Local 89, set up picket lines April 29.

The next day, negotiations, which had been going on for six weeks, broke off after union officials said they had "mistakenly"

given the company a 59-day instead of a 60-day notice that they wanted to change the contract. This meant the company could unilaterally extend the three-year pact for another year, and it did.

James Adams, Jeffboat assistant vice president of public affairs, announced, "The union has not authorized a strike. Employees are expected to report to their regularly scheduled shifts." The workers didn't, and instead they reported to the picket lines. Only 10 of the 750 union members crossed the line.

After a week on strike, workers agreed to return to work. First, however, they took a new vote May 6 on the company's contract offer, rejecting it once again. The workers received guarantees from the company that no one would be fired or disciplined for the strike, nor would anyone be penalized under the absentee program for the walkout.

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410 WEST ST., NEW YORK, NY 10014.

The Militant

Vol. 65/No. 23

Closing news date: May 30, 2001

Editor: MARTIN KOPPEL

Business Manager: MAURICE WILLIAMS

Editorial Staff: Roger Calero, Hilda Cuzco, Greg McCartan, Maggie Trowe, Brian Williams, and Maurice Williams.

Young Socialists column editor: ROMINA GREEN

Published weekly except for two weeks in August and one week in December.

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Telephone: (212) 243-6392; Fax (212) 924-6040.

E-mail: TheMilitant@compuserve.com

The Militant website is: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to The Militant Business Office, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Subscriptions: **United States:** for one-year subscription send \$45 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: for one-year subscription send \$65, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address. By first-class (airmail), send \$80.

Asia: send \$80 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

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Workers in South America protest austerity

BY HILDA CUZCO

In Latin America the normal functioning of the world capitalist economy—including a tightening debt squeeze and unequal terms of trade—has meant mass layoffs, small farmers facing ruin, electrical blackouts, and other disastrous consequences for millions. But those conditions, aggravated by government austerity policies designed to boost the profits of imperialist investors at the expense of the majority, continue to generate resistance—from a strike by auto workers in Brazil to a march of 70,000 in the capital of Uruguay, to farmers blocking roads in western Argentina.

In Brazil, workers at the General Motors plant in Gravataí, in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, are battling to have the Metalworkers Union represent them in their upcoming contract negotiations instead of a pro-company outfit. Nearly 1,000 workers occupied the plant May 23 to prevent potential strikebreakers from entering, bringing production to a halt. They were joined by hundreds of members of the Movement of Landless Rural Workers (MST).

The \$600 million plant, which opened last July, manufactures nearly 8,000 subcompact Celta hatchbacks a month. Altogether GM workers in Brazil produce 40,000 vehicles in three locations.

The nine-hour occupation ended when GM officials agreed to meet with the workers' representatives. The auto workers are also fighting for an 11 percent wage increase. Unionists say that under a contract signed by the company union, workers received no overtime pay and lacked other basic rights.

Meanwhile, a severe energy crisis has led to the threat of widespread power blackouts in Brazil. The Cardoso government has adopted a plan, effective June 1, to impose a mandatory 20 percent reduction in electricity consumption for six months, under



Metalworkers in São Paulo stage a lamplight protest against government measure imposing a 20 percent reduction in electricity consumption effective June 1.

penalty of cutting off service. The plan will also increase electricity rates. Workers face the prospect of layoffs as companies seek to reduce their costs.

The government has also proposed to declare Mondays a day off for both state and private enterprises, stating that this measure, which would not directly affect schools and hospitals, would reduce energy consumption by 35 percent.

The United Workers Federation (CUT), which denounced the energy ministry as the "Ministry of Blackouts," has called a strike for June 1 of nearly 30,000 workers at the national electrical company, Eletrobrás, to demand a wage increase due since April, as well as job guarantees and improved working conditions. To address the threat of layoffs, said CUT president João Felício, the

union is demanding a 10 percent cut in working hours with no pay cut as well as a ban on overtime.

Unionists at the energy company Light, in Rio de Janeiro, have already begun a strike to demand that 280 laid-off workers be called back to work. CUT vice president Luiz Gonzaga Tenório said the workers, who have not had a wage increase in six years, demand a raise of 7 percent.

Airline workers protest in Buenos Aires

On May 25, a national independence holiday in Argentina, airline workers at the Ezeiza international airport in Buenos Aires blocked a Boeing 747 plane to demand payment of back wages for 7,000 workers. Dozens of workers at Aerolíneas Argentinas unfurled an Argentine flag and encircled the

plane for an hour.

The same day, in an unusual display of unity among the various airline unions, some 4,000 airline workers dressed in their work uniforms and their families marched to the Spanish embassy in the Argentine capital to press their demand for back pay.

The Spanish government controls both Aerolíneas Argentinas and Iberia airlines. SEPI, the Spanish government's holding company, has said it is withholding April pay because of huge debts racked up by Aerolíneas. At the rally in front of the embassy, speakers emphasized that their target was the government, not the people, of Spain.

Workers also threatened to block the plane that was to fly Argentine labor minister Patricia Bullrich to Madrid.

In Argentina's impoverished provinces, working people are facing critical conditions, which has led to a social tinderbox. Public employees in the provinces of Buenos Aires, Santa Fe, Chaco, and La Rioja, among others, face the prospect of delays in wage payments. In mid-May paychecks for 25,000 substitute teachers in Buenos Aires province bounced. Gov. Carlos Ruckauf said the national government owed the province \$335 million, and Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo promised to send a partial payment.

The Argentine government has been prioritizing payments to U.S. and other international bankers on Argentina's mushrooming foreign debt, which has increased to \$133 billion—48 percent of the national economy. It is desperately seeking to negotiate a debt swap, asking holders of debts that come due in the next five years to exchange them for debt with longer maturity, in a move to gain breathing room to continue to carry out austerity policies to satisfy capitalists abroad and at home.

The crisis has led to a wave of road blockades by unemployed workers and others throughout the country. In the provinces of Río Negro and Neuquén, small fruit growers in the Alto Valle region blocked the highways with their tractors, demanding government subsidies and better prices to cushion the economic crisis. The farmers in Neuquén, who had demanded 40 million pesos in subsidies, suspended their protest May 25 after the government both offered 16 million pesos and threatened to unleash the police. The fruit growers, however, vowed to resume the protests if the authorities did not carry through their promises.

Uruguay devastated by joblessness

Uruguay has been hit by unprecedented levels of unemployment—reaching almost 15 percent in the first quarter of this year. The economic crisis has worsened with the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, which is devastating the cattle industry—the source of 80 percent of the country's export income, which normally yields \$500 million a year in hard currency.

The Uruguayan government is pushing through an austerity package that would institute a new tax, effective June 1, of 3 percent on domestic and imported products, supposedly to finance measures to compensate for the foot-and-mouth disease crisis. Employers would get a rebate in their payments to the social security fund.

In the rural areas, employers' contributions to the national retirement plan will be eliminated and their social security contributions to health care will be cut in half.

The social tensions have heightened attention to unresolved political struggles. Some 70,000 people marched through the streets of Montevideo, the capital, on May 13 to demand the truth about 163 people who "disappeared" during the years of the U.S.-backed military dictatorship, from 1973 to 1985. The action was organized by the main trade union federation, PIT-CNT, together with mothers of the disappeared and other community and human rights organizations.

Mexican-American community in Chicago asks city gov't: 'Where is our high school?'

BY CAPPY KIDD

CHICAGO—"Where is our high school?" and "Daley, we hold you accountable" are the first banners that you see as you walk up to Camp César Chávez. The camp and the many placards and banners that decorate its entrance are located on a narrow strip of grass between a busy city street and a large vacant lot. The camp is part of the fight by residents of Little Village to force the administration of Mayor Richard Daley to keep its promise to build a new high school on the site.

Little Village, one of the biggest Mexican-American neighborhoods in this city, has no public secondary school. Children in the area either have to take the bus to overcrowded public high schools several miles away or attend the private girls-only Catholic high school.

During his 1998-99 reelection campaign, Daley announced that funds would be allocated to build three new high schools in the city and, in response to a campaign by community residents, promised Little Village would be one of them. Since then, two high schools in more affluent neighborhoods have been completed and are operating. In Little Village, the site was purchased, abandoned factories were demolished, but that was all.

On May 13, activists in the community erected tents and began camping on the site. Fifteen members of the Committee in Support of the Construction of the High School in Little Village started a hunger strike.

Every afternoon residents of all ages stream into Camp Chávez in support of the campers and hunger strikers. The size of the camp grows to 100-200 people, with the largest event drawing 500. Meetings turn into rallies and then into honking caravans of placarded cars and trucks and nighttime marches through the neighborhood. People come out of their houses to chant with the marchers. Residents take placards to display in their windows.

On one march, Yolanda García, 20, who attended the local Catholic school, said the school dropout rate in the neighborhood is high. "These kids end up working at McDonald's or hanging out at the corner. Not everybody wants to attend Catholic



Militant/Cappy Kidd

Youth take their demand for a high school in Little Village, one of Chicago's largest Mexican-American neighborhoods, to a Parents Association meeting in May.

school." She added, "We desperately need this public school and we need it now."

At a tent serving as an organizing center in the camp, Tomás Gaete, 65, said the committee was formed when 32 block associations came together in 1999 after it became apparent that the city was not going to follow through on its commitment. Organizers carried out door-to-door visits and a petition campaign speaking to as many families in the school district as possible.

Protesters said delegations from the committee have attempted to hold meetings with representatives of the school board but have received little satisfaction. Linda Sarate said that Chicago Public Schools Chief Executive Officer Paul Vallas sent a representative, Tim Martin, director of school construction, to a meeting on March 22. "It was a slap in the face when Martin told us, 'What's the urgency? As soon as you get out of school you start having babies.'"

On May 19, about 30 youth active in the

committee attended the annual Parents' Association meeting at Lane Tech High School. As Daley was addressing the audience, the youth unfurled a banner reading, "Where is Our High School" and chanted "Daley, Vallas, keep your promise." Security guards quickly forced the students to take down the banner. The students then raised their placards and marched out of the building keeping up their chants.

"I was happy and proud when we came out of Lane Tech because I knew people had heard us and they knew what we were fighting for," said Andrea Guzmán, 17. "Through this struggle, we are learning about our own strength."

"There's a 1,000 percent increase in the confidence of the young people who join us in this fight," said Samuel García, 17, who like Guzmán is a hunger striker. We are the younger generation—we have to take responsibility for this fight and every minute counts."

Visit

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Marxist titles attract many at Iran book fair

BY TONY HUNT

TEHRAN, Iran—"Give me everything you have about the Cuban Revolution, how it started and what were the first steps after they took power," said a man who came to the Pathfinder stand at the 14th Tehran International Book Fair, held here May 8-18.

He was one of many visitors to the busy Pathfinder booth during the 10-day fair who were excited by the state visit to Iran by Cuban president Fidel Castro.

The interest in Castro's May 6-10 visit, which received major media coverage, reflected the admiration of many in Iran for the Cuban Revolution. It boosted interest and sales in books about Cuba.

The London Pathfinder distributorship sold a total of 312 books and pamphlets at the book fair this year. Seventy-four titles on the Cuban Revolution were purchased, making it the best-selling topic. *Che Guevara Talks to Young People* was the most popular single title, selling 14 copies. Ernesto Che Guevara, a central leader of the Cuban Revolution along with Fidel Castro, was also the most popular individual author. Thirty-three books and pamphlets by or about Guevara were sold.

'We do not like imperialism'

Eight copies were sold of Pathfinder's newest title, *Playa Girón/Bay of Pigs: Washington's First Military Defeat in the Americas*. This book describes how the Cuban people swiftly defeated a U.S. attempt in April 1961 to invade their country with a mercenary force and overthrow their revolution. Several fair visitors laughed with pleasure on reading the quotation from Castro used as the title to a speech in the book: "If Mr. Kennedy does not like socialism, well, we do not like imperialism." John Kennedy was the U.S. president who ordered the 1961 invasion.

A group of university students heard Castro address an enthusiastic crowd at Tehran University, where he paid tribute to the 1979 revolution in Iran. Castro "is a great leader," one of the students told the Pathfinder staff, "because he is not above the people, but part of them." A significant number of Iranians who identify with Islam also came to the booth to talk about the Cuban leader's visit.

The annual Tehran International Book Fair remains one of the largest book fairs and cultural events in the Middle East, if not the world, with hundreds of thousands thronging the different exhibition halls. The book fair stems from the social gains of the 1979 revolution in Iran, which toppled the U.S.-backed monarchy of the shah, asserted Iranian sovereignty, and opened the door to politics, culture, and education for millions of workers and peasants.

The Iranian government offers a nearly 70 percent subsidy on foreign-published books at the annual fair. This enables Iranians to purchase books that would otherwise be beyond their reach. The overseas publishers receive the full price of their books in hard currency.

In addition to imposing sanctions on Iran as punishment for the revolution and the anti-imperialist stance of millions of Iranians, Washington and other imperialist governments continue to spread disinformation about Iran. Book fair visitors often express appreciation for the fact that Pathfinder

London is one of the minority of overseas exhibitors that regularly send staff from abroad to the fair in Iran.

In recognition of this fact, the Pathfinder stand received significant media coverage this year, with sales director Tony Hunt interviewed three times by national TV stations and also by the English-language daily *Tehran Times*, which ran the interview along with one with the British Library representative on its front page. An interview for the official book fair newspaper and for a high school newspaper also took place.

There were more representatives from abroad present this year than in the past. A large stand with staff from Germany and Switzerland—representing publishers and distributors from those countries—dominated the top floor of the foreign publishers hall at the fair. A representative from the United Kingdom of the state-owned British Library was also present, as were representatives of the Italian government, for the first time.

The growing weakness of U.S. efforts to isolate Iran within the region was also reflected in the booth from the Turkish Ministry of Culture and the presence of representatives of the Saudi government at the closing ceremony. In addition, Hugo Chávez, president of Venezuela—a fellow member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries—paid a state visit to the country shortly after Fidel Castro had left.

'Communist Manifesto' sells out

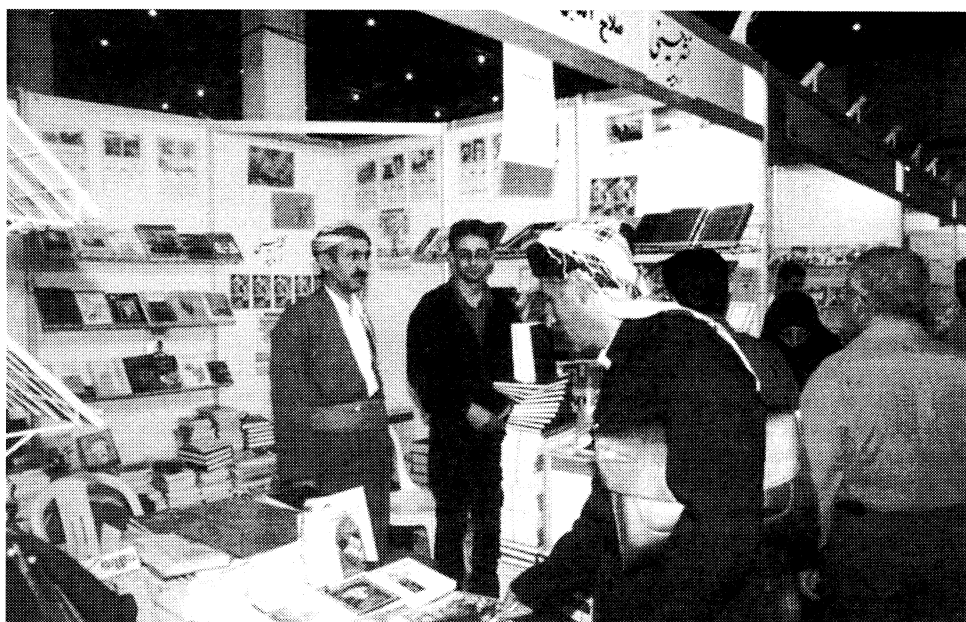
The *Communist Manifesto* by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels sold out, disappointing several customers. It came in second on the best-sellers list. One person who missed out was an engineering student who asked, "Where's that book on the philosophy of Marx?" Instead he bought *Socialism: Utopian and Scientific* by Engels, *Introduction to the Logic of Marxism* by George Novack, and *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning* by Jack Barnes. Looking through the latter pamphlet, the student was interested to read about what the term "class society" means.

Books by Marx and Engels have always been top sellers at the Pathfinder stand here. This year 33 copies of their works were sold. Also this year, several Iranian publishers issued Farsi translations of a few of the works of these founders of scientific socialism—such as the *Communist Manifesto* and volume 1 of *Capital* by Marx.

Due to a regulation that prohibits the sale of books printed before 1999 in the government-subsidized foreign book section, fewer titles by Marx, Engels, V.I. Lenin, and Leon Trotsky were on sale this year at the Pathfinder stand. Some pre-1999 Pathfinder titles were sold in an adjacent building where books of any date could be sold for local currency. The success of Pathfinder's international reprint project, however, ensured that a good selection of books was available for visitors in the government-subsidized section.

A minority of visitors, including some young people, expressed the view that Pathfinder's books were "out of date."

"Communism is dead, why are you selling these books?" was a typical comment, referring to the collapse of the Stalinist regimes in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. In response, members of the



Fourteenth Tehran International Book Fair, held May 8-18 in Iran, drew hundreds of thousands of people. At Pathfinder table, biggest selling subject was Cuban Revolution. The book fair is one of largest in the Middle East, drawing participants and vendors from many countries. Its existence stems from social gains of 1979 revolution in Iran.

sales team pointed to the lead article, "U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War," by Jack Barnes, in issue no. 11 of the magazine *New Internationalist*. Here Barnes explains that the bureaucratic regimes and ruling parties there were not communist, and that the entry of working people into politics and the continued failure to reestablish capitalism in these countries demonstrate that the real loser in the Cold War was U.S. imperialism. Nine copies were sold of this title, including its Spanish and French translations. Eight copies were sold of *Capitalism's World Disorder*, also by Barnes.

Interest in 'The Jewish Question'

Also attracting attention was *The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation*, by Abram Leon. It sold nine copies as did a related title, *How Can the Jews Survive? A Socialist Answer to Zionism*, by George Novack. Seven copies were also sold of *On the Jewish Question* by communist leader Leon Trotsky.

Book buyers liked the materialist explanation offered in all three titles for the origins of Jew-hatred, why it must be combated, and why it is wrong to label all Jews as Zionists or supporters of the state of Israel. Some were surprised that all three authors were Jews, and that George Novack,

who was alive after the foundation of the state of Israel, was a firm supporter of the Palestinian struggle. Some fair visitors declined to buy the books, saying they were looking for an explanation of why "Jews have all the power and the money."

Is Biology Woman's Destiny? by Evelyn Reed—recently reprinted with an attractive new cover—tied with the *Communist Manifesto* for second place in the Pathfinder best-sellers list. In total 38 books and pamphlets on the fight for women's rights were sold. Books of speeches by U.S. revolutionary Malcolm X also sold well—28 books in all—with visitors to the stand also showing interest in other books related to the fight against racism.

Two students from Burkina Faso were among the enthusiastic buyers of Malcolm X titles. Their eyes really lit up, however, when they saw the recently reprinted *Thomas Sankara Speaks*, a collection of speeches by the assassinated leader of the 1983-87 revolution in that West African country.

One of the students bought a copy. The other, who spoke little English but read French, said, "He is my president," referring to Sankara. Other international visitors to the stand included students from Ghana, South Africa, Mexico, Colombia, Australia, the United States, and Italy.

Cincinnati antiracist protesters say, 'We're not going away'

BY CHRIS HOEPPNER

CINCINNATI—Those demanding justice for Timothy Thomas, a 19-year-old Black man killed by Cincinnati police officer Stephen Roach April 7, have continued to take to the streets. Recent protests, including a campaign to boycott a city food and music festival, have given momentum to plans for a June 2 March for Justice.

The May 7 Hamilton County grand jury decision to charge Roach with two misdemeanor offenses rather than for Thomas's death only increased anger among many working people. A May festival called "Jammin on Main" was canceled in face of the protests that have taken place virtually every week in downtown Cincinnati.

On May 26, hundreds of protesters against police violence, pressing for a boycott of the city's "Taste of Cincinnati" food and music festival, booed soul singer James Brown when he appeared on the stage to open the downtown commercial event. Brown left after speaking briefly, and did not perform. He was the third rhythm and blues act booked after the first two—the Isley Brothers and Midnight Star—canceled in response to a call by protesters to boycott the festival.

In a disciplined formation marshaled by members of the Cincinnati Black United Front, about 200 protesters later marched through the Taste of Cincinnati crowd for about two hours, despite the rain. They leafleted fair-goers and chanted, "We're not going away" and "No justice, no peace, no racist police." Scores of police stationed throughout the festival did not intervene to stop the march.

After the demonstration, marchers assembled at a local church to rest, share a

meal, and discuss what they had accomplished. Wanda Sloan, expressing the mood of many of the protesters, said in an interview, "We're not slaves anymore. They're trying to sweep this killing under the rug. They won't succeed." Victoria Straughn agreed: "You can't continue to repress people and not expect them to fight back. Something is grossly wrong in this city. Now is the time to shine a light on it."

Derrick Blassingame, a veteran of weeks of protests, pointed out: "At my high school, Frederick Douglass, the principal doesn't like what we're doing. But this is too important to stop. We need to get the word out. Come and join the struggle. This is not a local, but a national and international struggle."

In the last week the call for a June 2 "March for Justice" in Cincinnati demanding "Stop police killings and the abuse of police power" has drawn more support. Projected speakers include Angela Leisner, the mother of Timothy Thomas; Rev. Damon Lynch III of the Cincinnati Black United Front; Farm Labor Organizing Committee president Baldemar Velásquez; former Ohio governor John Gilligan; and Rev. J. W. Jones, first vice president of the Baptist Ministers Conference.

The march assembles at Fountain Square (5th Street and Vine) at 11 a.m. in downtown Cincinnati. Information on the action is available on the website for the march at www.Cincymarch.org, or call 513-588-8883.

Chris Hoepfner is a meat packer and member of the United Food and Commercial Workers union. Ellen Berman, a member of the United Auto Workers, contributed to this article.

From Pathfinder

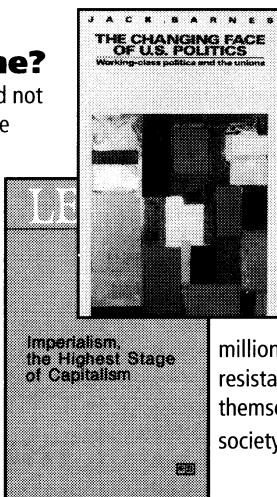
by V.I. Lenin

What Is To Be Done?

"The Social-Democrat's ideal should not be the trade-union secretary, but the tribune of the people, who is able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression."

Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism

"I trust that this pamphlet will help the reader to understand the fundamental economic question, that of the economic essence of imperialism," Lenin wrote in 1917. "For unless this is studied, it will be impossible to understand and appraise modern war and modern politics." **\$3.95**



Changing Face of U.S. Politics

Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions
by Jack Barnes

A handbook for workers coming into the factories, mines, and mills, as they react to the uncertain life, turmoil, and brutality of capitalism. It shows how millions of workers, as political resistance grows, will revolutionize themselves, their unions, and all of society. **\$19.95**

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12.

Daily campaign needed to meet drive goals

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Between now and the start of the Active Workers Conference June 14 in Ohio, socialist workers, Young Socialists, and all partisans of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* are encouraged to join in a day-by-day campaign to get the socialist publications and Pathfinder books into the hands of working people and youth.

Reports in this issue from meetings of socialist workers in the garment and textile industries and the coal mines show the kind of political work that can be carried out on the job over the coming weeks as part of meeting the inter-

district are becoming recognized by more working people in the area who return for more discussion. This past Sunday a team sold three subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial* and one to the *Militant* and three of the new subscribers purchased a copy of *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*. A total of \$153 of Pathfinder literature was purchased by workers from the table.

One young woman was excited to meet socialists. "I'm a socialist too!" she said. "I'm so glad to finally meet some people who think like I do." She picked up a copy of *Playa Girón/Bay of Pigs: Washington's First Military Defeat in the Americas* along with a subscription to the *Militant*.

Two days later a garment worker originally from Ecuador who had read some of Karl Marx's *Capital* purchased *State and Revolution* by V.I. Lenin from an early morning plant gate table. Earlier in the week another garment worker who had received a flyer on the Pathfinder bookstore stopped by the store, purchased a subscription to *Perspectiva Mundial* and a copy of *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*.

Young Socialists win new readers

Bernard Isley, a 24-year-old carpenter apprentice and YS member, joined a sales team at the University of Pittsburgh that sold 10 copies of the *Militant*. "I also posted leaflets on campus to build the upcoming Militant Labor Forum," said Isley. "We are very close to having a YS chapter here through our efforts in organizing a delegation to the Cuba-U.S. Youth Exchange and other political activities."

YS members are also planning to go with others to the protest against cop brutality in Ohio. One person interested in joining the communist movement came to the forum this past weekend and bought a *Militant* subscription, a copy of *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*, and the new Pathfinder book *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*.

Osborne Hart, a meat packer in Detroit, said socialist workers in that city are "planning a number of activities here, which include attending the conference at the University of Michigan to defend affirmative action and the June 2 demonstration against the cop killing of Timothy Thomas in Cincinnati. Support is growing for the action in Cincinnati, which has been endorsed by Thomas's mother, a number of unions, political organizations, and the Black clergy," he said.

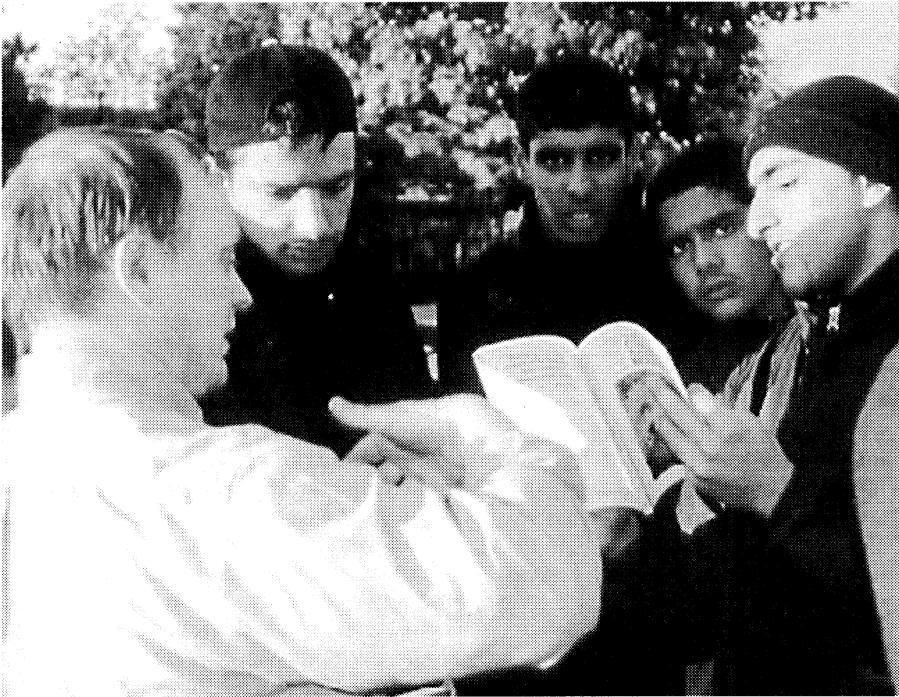
"One of my co-workers is considering the June 9 rally in South Carolina to defend the Charleston dockworkers," said Connie Allen, a member of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE), from Charlotte, North Carolina. "He was frustrated about the large layoffs recently announced by the company and said to me, 'I really want to read that book on the coming American revolution that I was reading about in the *Militant*.' He took advantage of the special offer and subscribed to the *Militant*, purchased a copy of *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*, as well as the pamphlet *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*."

Socialist meat packers in Omaha, Nebraska, said they used Memorial Day to get out to Columbus, Nebraska, about a two-hour drive. "We went to a large trailer park, where we sold three *PM* subs, all to meat packers," the team wrote. "The first subscription was sold to a worker we met two or three weeks ago. Later we had a meeting to map out a plan for the rest of the sales drive. Our biggest challenges are the *Militant* and pamphlet goals. We discussed trying to follow up on a number of people who expressed interest in *Militant* subscriptions this week. We will also be calling all of our current subscribers to talk with them about getting a copy of the new book and the pamphlets."

Participants in the circulation campaign are also getting back to areas where working people have been involved in labor battles and other social struggles. For example, socialist workers in Allentown, Pennsylvania, went back to the Hollander Home Fashions plant in Frackville May 25. The UNITE members had recently ended a three-week strike after winning improvements in the health insurance plan.

"This was the first time we sold the *Militant* at the plant gate since the workers approved a contract to end their strike," they wrote. "Many of the workers had money in their hands to buy the latest issue of the paper as they drove out of the plant. A couple of workers told us that word got around in the plant that 'you would be coming and we should have our money ready.'"

They sold 26 copies of the *Militant* within 10 minutes. "Cars were lined up behind a stop sign to get the paper and no one honked their horn to protest the delay caused by the sales effort," they reported.



Militant/Jonathan Silberman

Paul Galloway, left, shows *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* to youth in Oldham, Britain, scene of protests against racist and cop attacks on Asian immigrants. The new title by Pathfinder is selling well as part of circulation drive.

national goals in the subscription and pamphleteering campaign. The *Militant* will accept all subscriptions received until noon on Wednesday, June 13, when we go to press.

Efforts in the circulation campaign got a political boost this past week with the publication of *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* by Jack Barnes. It is one of the three Pathfinder titles that are part of the drive. Sales of the new book, together with the pamphlets *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning* and *Pathfinder was Born with the October Revolution* jumped by 285 this past week.

"We're selling the book and pamphlets like crazy right now," wrote Nell Wheeler from San Francisco. At a Militant Labor Forum featuring a presentation by high school students who had recently returned from Cuba, two participants signed up for subscriptions to the *Militant* along with *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*. Several more purchased *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* after a discussion about politics in the United States.

The next day socialist workers joined a rally for racial justice in San Jose where several people who had seen the *Militant* before decided to sign up to get the paper on a regular basis and three picked up the new book. At a protest march of 700 to demand equal rights for immigrants, one participant recognized himself on the front cover of a recent issue of the *Militant*, and signed up for a subscription to *Perspectiva Mundial*. Another three marchers also purchased *PM* subscriptions and the new title with the subscription.

"We sold six copies of the new book and two copies of the *Transformation of Learning* at the demonstration," Wheeler said. "Over the course of the weekend we sold 21 of these titles. Twice weekly tables in New York's garment

Workers demand, 'Turn down line speed'

Continued from front page

to discuss the need to do something during our first break." "By the second break," said Eusebio Fronteras, another boning department worker, "we were determined to do something, and word spread in the lunchroom. The chuck boners went upstairs to the main office to complain about the line speed because the bosses had taken two people off their operation—on top of the faster speed. The end of the break came and went, and very few workers, mainly from packaging, went back to work. It was all the white workers, the shop stewards, and a few others who went back."

Workers stay in lunchroom

"Brian Khulman, the department supervisor, came and then other supervisors showed up demanding that we go back to work," said Saturnino Morelos, another participant in the job action. "We said we wanted a discussion with the main bosses about the line speed. The main supervisor told us to get back to work and that we could discuss the problem after work with whoever we wanted to. We said we wanted to talk to Patrick [Collings, head of Human Resources] and we did not move," Morelos said.

The unionists reported that a discussion broke out among workers about the action and how to resolve it. One worker who was arguing for going back to work told those who supported the action, "Are you going to pay my rent if we

get fired?" Another worker replied, "If we stick together and defend each other, they won't be able to fire anyone."

Workers remained in the lunchroom until the Human Resources director showed up. Collings told workers the problem would be reviewed but that they had to get back to work.

"At that point a number of people went back to the line," said Morelos, "but about 40 of us stayed because we have heard those words come out of his mouth before and everything would remain the same. A while later he came back to the lunchroom and told us that if we did not want to work, that we should leave. 'Go home!' he said. So we did."

"We went downstairs, washed our equipment and stuff, and went for the door. 'We don't want you,' said Brian Khulman, the boning department head. A couple of workers who had gone back to work joined us on our way out. But then, all of a sudden, the plant manager, Cecil Foote, came in a hurry. He said he had not been around when the discussion had taken place, that no one should leave, and that the line speed would be adjusted. Some workers had left already, but they came back the next day," said Morelos.

Fronteras added, "They brought the line speed way

Continued on Page 14

Militant/PM subscription drive to win new readers April 14-June 10 (week 6)

Country	Militant			PM		Pamphlet	
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
Australia	12	8	67%	2	2	25	28
Sweden	12	8	67%	5	7	20	3
New Zealand							
Auckland	10	7	70%	1		20	12
Christchurch	8	5	63%	1	1	10	6
N.Z. total	18	12	67%	2	1	30	18
United Kingdom	35	20	57%	10	6	70	17
United States							
Miami	22	18	82%	20	12	70	40
Fresno	9	7	78%	9	2	15	2
Washington*	27	20	74%	26	22	60	60
Seattle*	25	17	68%	8	7	55	35
Tucson	8	5	63%	5	1	6	
Cleveland	20	12	60%	6		30	22
Detroit	20	12	60%	5	3	40	31
Grand Junction	25	15	60%	5	5	35	30
Houston	35	21	60%	15	6	50	15
Los Angeles	50	30	60%	25	21	80	7
Newark	40	24	60%	25	16	70	33
Omaha	15	9	60%	18	16	20	6
Twin Cities	35	20	57%	25	28	50	31
Des Moines	30	17	57%	20	20	45	49
Chicago	35	19	54%	25	17	75	30
Atlanta	30	15	50%	15	8	40	20
San Francisco	50	25	50%	25	21	100	92
Tampa	8	4	50%	6		15	11
Birmingham*	25	12	48%	7	6	45	15
Pittsburgh	40	19	48%	5	1	55	15
NY Garment Dist.	70	32	46%	55	32	150	76
Allentown	18	8	44%	5	2	20	9
Upper Manhattan	70	31	44%	50	36	125	80
Charlotte	12	5	42%	4	3	25	17
Philadelphia	30	11	37%	10	6	45	12
Brooklyn	75	25	33%	40	18	150	38
Boston*	25	8	32%	10	8	20	14
U.S. total	849	441	52%	469	317	1491	790
Iceland*	6	3	50%	1		45	39
Canada							
Vancouver	15	7	47%	2	1	35	9
Toronto	20	7	35%	3	1	40	20
Montreal	12	3	25%	5	2	40	26
Canada total	47	17	36%	10	4	115	55
Int'l totals	979	509	51%	499	337	1796	950
Goal/Should be	1000	750	75%	500	375	1900	1425

IN THE UNIONS

New Zealand							
NDU	2	1	50%			2	1
MWU	1	0	0%			1	0
Total	3	1	33%			3	1
Canada							
UFCW	10	3	30%	2	0	15	4
UNITE	2		0%	2		9	4
Total	12	3	25%	4	0	24	8
United States							
UMWA	25	10	40%	1		25	7
UFCW	65	12	18%	80	41	170	46
UNITE	35	6	17%	30	16	70	19
Total	125	28	22%	111	57	265	72
Australia							
MUA	2	1	50%			3	3
Meat workers	2	1				3	1
Total	2	1	50%				
raised goal*							

Strikers at Hollander return to work united

BY FRANCISCO CIPRIANO
AND WENDY LYONS

LOS ANGELES—"When this started, I didn't know what the union was about. But I learned through the strike that when we unite it is powerful," said Gabriel Paniagua, a worker in his 20s employed at the Boyle plant, one of Hollander Home Fashion's two factories here.

After a two-and-a-half-month fight, striking workers at Hollander won a new contract. On May 17 they voted 145-5 to ratify the agreement and return to work.

Some workers embraced each other with joy, others went to their cars and honked their horns, as they left the offices of their union, the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE).

According to one unionist, Gregorio Rosales, workers were told the new contract includes a 401-(k) retirement plan and wage increases of 25 cents an hour the first and second years and 15 cents an hour the third year. Workers are awaiting further details.

The 450 workers had been on strike since March 8. Hollander employs 1,300 workers nationally and has plants in California, Georgia, Illinois, Texas, and Pennsylvania, as well as in Canada.

The workers at the company's Frackville, Pennsylvania, plant, who had been on strike since May 1, also returned to work with a new contract. Workers at the Tignall, Geor-



Militant/Wendy Lyons

Workers at Hollander Home Fashions returned to work May 21 with a new contract

gia, plant honored the picket line set up by strikers from Los Angeles, refusing to work for the duration of the strike. They too are back on the job.

Alberto Pantoja, one of the original founders of the union at Hollander, said,

"We made some gains. It was a tough fight and a lot of us weren't prepared [for the strike] but we held in there and learned a lot. Next time we can strengthen what we gained."

Bennie Chandler said, "It was a good

fight. If you don't stand up they run over you."

On Monday, May 21, the workers at Hollander gathered together before work hours at the Seville factory here, all dressed in their red union shirts, to enter the plant with their heads held high. The company wanted them to return the previous Friday but they had voted to return Monday. A popular chant during the strike was "Si se puede!" (Yes we can!), but this day the chant was "Si se pudo!" (Yes we could!)

Suddenly, a bus carrying scabs came rolling by and turned into the parking lot. Replacement workers were let into the plant, as they had been from shortly after the strike started. The company told the unionists that the new contract was not in effect yet and since they didn't know how many unionists would come back to work they had made other arrangements. They demanded that the workers enter the plant department by department, leave their names and phone numbers, and wait to see if the company needed them to work that day.

"We all go back together or none of us go in," a few workers said. This statement caught on and was repeated over and over by different workers. The unionists ended up leaving that day.

The next day, the workers gathered again and all went in together. Later the company informed about 16 workers from the second shift that they didn't have work for them. At the Boyle plant about 40 workers were sent home. A small number of scabs continued to work in the Seville factory. UNITE member Martha Bonilla reported that a number of workers were being forced to change departments. Her supervisor told her to move to the feather department or be fired.

The unionists who had been sent home gathered outside the plant for the next two days, while those inside protested and demanded that the workers outside be let back in and the scabs be sent home. There was talk of a sit-down strike.

On May 24, they succeeded in getting all the replacement workers out, the majority of the unionists in, and an agreement to pay the few workers still not back on the job, while they waited to be recalled to work the next week. Some of the scabs threatened Hollander with a boycott and protest for being fired from a job they had been led to believe was permanent. The unionists assessed their battle. "It was a victory. During these two months we learned to defend ourselves. We learned more outside during this time than the whole time we worked inside," said María Meléndez. "We're ready for the next fight."

Jesús Muñoz said, "It was a tough struggle but with a lot of heart. You can't win without a union. We won't permit them to brainwash us to vote the union out. Today we are stronger, and we will defend the union."

Leticia Serrano remarked, "It was tough but worth it. Today the people have learned something about defending themselves. Before everybody was afraid of everything, of saying what they thought. But now we know how to defend ourselves."

Vera Amancia said, "Thank God we came to an agreement. I want to congratulate everybody for having the courage to fight this contract. I want to give thanks with all my heart to all the people who came to support us," he concluded, referring to other workers, "If one day you need our help, we'll be there."

Francisco Cipriano is a meat packer. Wendy Lyons is a garment worker.

Ohio garment workers gain contract

BY MIKE FITZSIMMONS
AND TONY PRINCE

CLEVELAND—Garment workers at Hugo Boss in Cleveland have recently carried out discussions and actions to win a national contract and then a local contract.

As members of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE), they are covered by a contract with the Clothing Manufacturers Association (CMA) along with more than 6,000 other workers who make men's tailored suits. The national contract, approved in early May, provides for a 25 cents per hour wage increase in the first year, a \$500 bonus and no wage increase in the second year, and a 20-cent increase in the third year.

On April 23 workers attended one of the largest meetings of the local in several years. That day and for several days afterward, workers turned down the company's requests that they work overtime, which is voluntary in this factory. The workers' action came when the company was trying to meet end-of-the-month deadlines.

The next day, supervisors approached a number of workers in the main production department, the coat shop, about working overtime. Many of these workers, who do not speak English and were not aware of the discussion that had taken place at the union meeting, initially agreed. Other workers in the coat shop rapidly organized to talk to their co-workers and convinced them to decline the overtime. This action helped to overcome divisions based on language and nationality that the company fosters. Several workers

remarked, "We have to stay united."

On April 30, workers in the plant voted on the national contract. The main issue they objected to was payment of a bonus in the second year instead of a raise. Elba Rosario, a sewing machine operator in the pants shop, explained, "People need to understand they're trying to fool us with the bonus. I'm campaigning for a 'no' vote."

The contract was rejected 246-36. Later that afternoon, as the union president walked around the plant showing the vote totals, some workers cheered and clapped.

"It doesn't really affect me because I'm retiring in August," said Glenda Backus, a presser in the coat shop. "But you have to take a stand." Another worker with more than 20 years in the plant added, "I'm not scared anymore. I see through the company's game." Some expressed surprise at the results, saying they had underestimated the immigrant workers, who are the majority of the workforce.

The reaction of many workers turned to frustration, however, when it became clear a few days later that the national contract had been approved.

On May 8, the company posted a notice from the National Labor Relations Board, stating that a petition had been filed for a union decertification election in the plant. Workers started to become aware of the notice the following morning.

Word spread through the plant that morning that an emergency union meeting would take place in the cafeteria at 11:00 a.m. Almost all the 325 workers in the plant at-

tended. It was reported that the company was refusing to negotiate a local contract with the union.

The union representative explained that one of the main issues was payment of a 20-cent pay raise that had been postponed since 1992. To loud applause, he announced that the company had suddenly agreed to meet with the union negotiating committee the next day.

To try to regain the upper hand, the personnel director posted a notice a couple of days later threatening to fire workers who participated in any further "illegal work stoppages." Many scoffed at this notice. A young warehouse worker said, "We should do it again. What's he going to do about it?" An examiner in the coat shop added, "See how he likes it if we stay out a whole day!"

On May 15, the day after the meeting of the union local, workers again began to decline overtime. Over the next few days, discussions took place to convince as many workers as possible to do the same. The company responded by laying off whole departments for a day at a time, claiming lack of work.

On Friday, May 18, supervisors repeatedly asked workers in two of the coat shop departments to work on Saturday. Each time workers followed up by explaining to co-workers the need to maintain unity. The bosses grew visibly more frustrated, and finally canceled Saturday overtime.

Another meeting was held in the plant May 22 to hear a report on the company's offer for the local contract. The union joint board manager reported that the company had agreed to pay the postponed 20-cent pay raise in 2002, and that the 25-cent pay raise for 2001 that had been negotiated in the national contract would go into effect immediately rather than in October. Additionally, negotiations are continuing on supplementary health insurance benefits. The union did not win its demand for paid personal days.

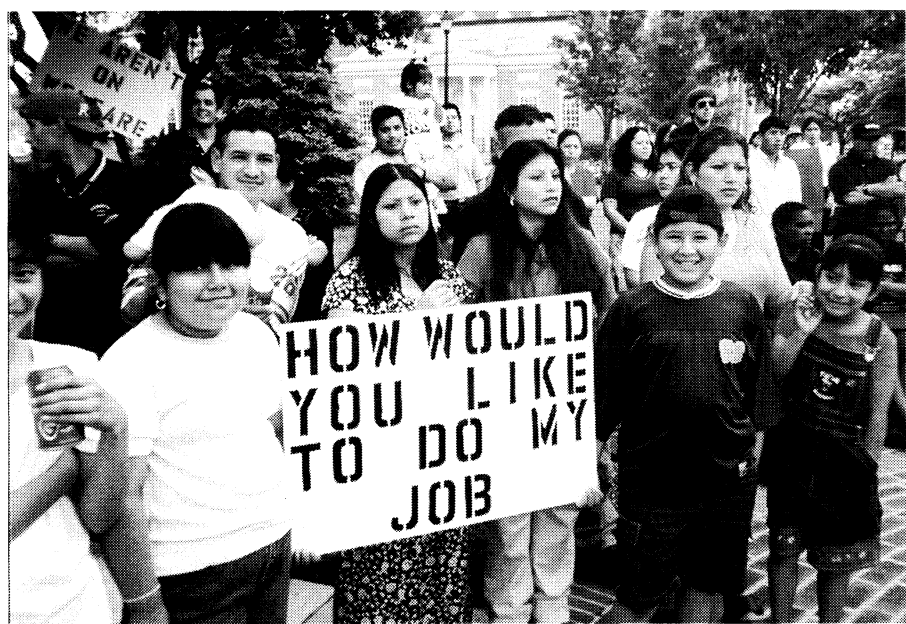
The majority opinion was that the workers' united stand had forced the company to concede more than it was initially willing to. A number of workers said the union was stronger because of the experiences the workers had been through.

Elba Rosario commented, "One of the workers told me that not working overtime wouldn't have any effect on the company. But you see, the company is behind by 1,900 units now. What we did had a big impact."

Danielle Dimitrova, who explained that she had been a union steward in her native Bulgaria, said, "Maybe we didn't get everything, but we made the bosses respect us. Now they know we have our own minds."

Mike Fitzsimmons and Tony Prince are members of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees at Hugo Boss in Cleveland.

Poultry workers march for rights of immigrants



Militant/Stu Singer

Around 300 people, mostly immigrant workers and their families from Guatemala who work in chicken-processing plants rallied in Georgetown, Delaware, May 19 to demand equal rights for immigrants.

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Nat'l actions to protest deaths of immigrants

BY BETSY McDONALD

TUCSON, Arizona—The Human Rights Coalition of Tucson called for immigrant rights supporters to participate in a national day of action on Sunday, June 3, to protest the U.S. immigration policies that led to the death by dehydration of 14 Mexican immigrant workers in the Arizona desert May 23 and 24.

"No more deaths in the Mexican desert" read some of the signs carried by demonstrators in New York City May 27. The Mexican-American Workers Association organized the demonstration in El Barrio, a neighborhood in Manhattan that is home to a growing number of Mexican immigrants. They held Washington as well as the Mexican government responsible for the deaths. The demonstrators also highlighted the exploitation of immigrant workers by greengrocers in New York, where some union-organizing efforts have been taking place.

The 14 were part of a group of 26 attempting to cross 70 miles of desert from the Mexican border to Interstate 8. Twenty-four were from the coffee producing area of the Mexican state of Veracruz.

They were among the many in Veracruz, which has been devastated by the falling world prices of coffee, who have been driven off the land and into the cities of Mexico and the United States. Two were from Guerrero state. Their final destination was North Carolina.

This is the worst known case of immigrants dying in the desert since July 1980 when 13 Salvadorans fleeing political persecution under a U.S.-backed regime died of dehydration in the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. The Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, where the 14 Mexican immigrants were found, is home to the Barry Goldwater Air Force Range, where tactical aviation training is regularly scheduled with the use of live ammunition and bombs. Temperatures there recently reached 115 degrees Fahrenheit.

Some 400 people lost their lives while crossing the U.S.-Mexico border last year, according to the New York daily *El Diario/La Prensa*. Heavy patrolling of the borders by U.S. immigration cops has forced many workers to try to cross in more remote areas, where they walk for days through the desert.

Under the Clinton administration, the U.S. government initiated Operation Gatekeeper in 1995, building miles of 12-foot-high fences along the border and beefing up the police presence. There are now 9,400 Border Patrol agents, making the Immigration and Naturalization Service the largest federal police agency.

Hundreds of thousands of workers have been deported in recent years. The 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act, among other reactionary provisions, eliminated constitutional protections in order to speed deportations.

The response of both U.S. and Mexican government officials to the latest deaths, however, has been to blame immigrant smugglers for the deaths. U.S. president George Bush and Mexican president Vicente Fox extended condolences to the families and friends of the dead, vowing to arrest the smugglers rapidly.

U.S. attorney general John Ashcroft condemned the immigrant smugglers "for putting profits before people." Mexican foreign minister Jorge Castañeda called for targeting smugglers as the problem.

Many workers from Mexico and defenders of immigrant rights, on the other hand, have pointed to government immigration policies as contributing to the increasing numbers of deaths on the border.

In an interview, Lupe Castillo of the Human Rights Coalition, known by its name in Spanish, *Coalición de Derechos Humanos*, pointed out, "We knew more and more deaths would happen, and so did they." She held U.S. policy responsible and said the Mexican government is complicit.

Rick Ufford-Chase, executive director of Border Links, stated, "I'm outraged that there are people in Washington who think the way to control immigration is to give people a death sentence for coming into this country."

Thirty-five people attended a special vigil at the El Tiradito Shrine in Tucson the day

after the 14 were found dead in the desert. Isabel Garcia, co-chair of Arizona Border Rights Coalition, said that "the real criminal here is U.S. policy. The real criminal act here is the enforcement of a strategy that is guaranteed to kill people."

The *Coalición de Derechos Humanos* has held weekly vigils remembering the immigrants who have died near the border since June 2 last year, when 500 attended a Tucson action protesting right-wing rancher vigilantes in Cochise County who were hunting and seizing immigrants for the U.S. Border Patrol.

The June 3 protest is projected as part of a proposed national day of action to highlight the deaths of workers who have died crossing the border and to oppose U.S. immigration laws, including the buildup of the Border Patrol and militarization of the U.S.-Mexico border.

Cuban rally: 'U.S. Navy out of Vieques!'

Continued from front page

Martí Anti-Imperialist Tribune, a plaza located in front of the U.S. Interests Section. President Fidel Castro and other Cuban revolutionary leaders, including José Ramón Fernández, vice president of the Council of Ministers, led the rally.

"We are willing to die at their side," said Ernesto Fernández, vice president of the Federation of University Students (FEU) at Havana's teacher-training institute. He explained that Cuban support to the Puerto Rican struggle goes back to the 19th century, when the Cuban Revolutionary Party, which under the leadership of José Martí fought for Cuba's liberation, included in its statement of purpose the independence of Puerto Rico as well as Cuba.

Fernández noted that residents of Vieques today have a 27 percent higher rate of cancer-related diseases because of chemical and radioactive contamination of the island by the U.S. military.

Pre-university student Claudia Felipe pointed out that the U.S. military has used the Puerto Rican island of Vieques for war maneuvers since World War II. The most recent Navy maneuvers on Vieques were part of training U.S. troops for deployment in the Middle East.

Juan Mari Bras, a longtime leader of the Puerto Rican independence movement, addressed the rally. He pointed to the massive rejection of the U.S. Navy's occupation of Vieques among Puerto Ricans today, as well as the growth of pro-independence sentiment in that U.S. colony.

"Vieques is an example of our worth as Puerto Ricans, which the Yankees dismiss," said Juan Antonio Franco, a religious leader in Puerto Rico. "They view us as disposable, like someone throwing a paper plate into the trash."

Franco added, "From this platform I can see an immense sea of people. It inspires me this morning and makes me dream that some day, in some plaza in Puerto Rico, along a great boulevard, we will be able to celebrate the independence of the Puerto Rican people."

'Grateful to Cuban people'

Fernando Martín, a leader of the Puerto Rican Independence Party (PIP), stated, "The struggle for Vieques has become a decisive moment in the struggle for the future of freedom in Puerto Rico." Referring to the sustained protests against the U.S. Navy in Vieques, he added, "Today the clash of wills and interests between the Puerto Rican people and their rulers is becoming more pronounced than ever before."

Martín expressed his "sincerest gratitude to the Cuban people, to the revolution, to its commander [Fidel Castro] for this impressive and moving gesture of solidarity and support to our struggle."

The pro-independence fighter brought greetings on behalf of PIP president Rubén Berrios, who is among those in prison for protesting on Navy-occupied territory in Vieques. Berrios was recently sentenced to four months in jail by a U.S. court.

The seminar sponsored by the UN Decolonization Committee adopted a report on the colonial status of Puerto Rico. At



Workers march in New York May 27 to protest U.S. government's immigration policies, and Mexican government complicity, for the death of 14 Mexican immigrants who died of dehydration in the Arizona desert after crossing the border.

Cuba's initiative, the report included two paragraphs on Vieques as an example of this oppressed status. That section was adopted over the objections of the British government representative, who observed the meeting as one of the "administrative"—that is, colonial, powers.

Ricardo Alarcón, president of Cuba's National Assembly, told those at the UN meeting that "saving the great Latin American nation will be possible if we fight for the independence of the Boricua [Puerto Rican] homeland."

He added that the independence struggle "has an even greater significance today, because it is part of the battle to prevent the United States from absorbing the continent" through its economic and political domination of Latin America.

The mass action in Cuba in support of the fight against the U.S. Navy in Vieques

made some opponents of Puerto Rican national sovereignty sputter with outrage. The president of Puerto Rico's colonial Senate, Antonio Fas Alzamora, denounced the Cuban mobilization, saying it furthered the cause of independence. He criticized the PIP for taking part in the Havana rally.

"The discussion of Puerto Rico's political status concerns only the Puerto Ricans," the senator huffed, the San Juan daily *El Nuevo Día* reported May 27. Fas Alzamora is a leader of the ruling Popular Democratic Party (PPD), which favors the current "Commonwealth" form of colonial rule.

Jorge de Castro Font, a congressman from the right wing of the PPD, asked that Puerto Rican governor Sila Calderón, also of the PPD, stop supporting the Vieques cause because the movement to get the U.S. out of that island will strengthen those advocating independence for Puerto Rico.

Pathfinder Fund gains new support

BY BOB ADAMS

BROOKLYN, New York—By following up a mailing with phone calls to people who read and appreciate Pathfinder books, campaigners for the Pathfinder Fund won \$575 in new pledges over two nights, local fund director Dick Geyer reports from Chicago. Supporters there are aiming to get another five to 10 new contributions to the fund in order to reach their goal of \$6,500 in time, he said.

"There's no secret to success: it's persistence in calling and talking to people," Geyer said, adding, "People really appreciate being called about the fund."

In discussing the fund "we have been highlighting the announcement that Pathfinder will be publishing pamphlets by Lenin," he said. "People are really excited about that."

Over the past week—the sixth in the campaign, which ends June 10—some \$10,000 has been collected and sent in. A total of \$60,778 has been raised out of the \$100,000 goal. This means the momentum has been growing, but decisive steps need to be taken to raise the remainder and make the goal on time.

From Des Moines, Edwin Fruit reports that with a successful meeting May 27 to celebrate the publication of Pathfinder's new book *Playa Girón/Bay of Pigs: Washington's First Military Defeat in the Americas*, Pathfinder supporters there will be able to go over their original goal of \$1,400.

The featured speaker was Lawrence Mikesch, a meat packer and Young Socialist who had recently attended the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC) congress in Havana. "He explained how Pathfinder's publications help people see there is a working class internationally with counterposed interests to those of the capitalists and that these books show the line of march necessary for that class to take power," Fruit wrote.

Pathfinder Fund 2001

Country/City	Goal(\$)	Paid	%
France	620	579	93%
Canada	5,000	4,346	87%
New Zealand	1,145	735	64%
United States			
Los Angeles	6,000	6,020	100%
San Francisco	8,000	7,958	99%
Newark	3,000	2,790	93%
Upper Manhattan	3,300	2,494	76%
Detroit	2,500	1,860	74%
Brooklyn	4,000	2,819	70%
Boston	3,750	2,515	67%
Allentown	900	550	61%
Seattle	8,000	4,830	60%
Birmingham	2,500	1,495	60%
Chicago	6,500	3,612	56%
Houston	3,500	1,905	54%
Philadelphia	3,000	1,630	54%
Tampa	600	325	54%
NY Garment Dist	4,000	2,044	51%
Omaha	250	125	50%
Twin Cities	4,000	1,993	50%
Charlotte	2,700	1,305	48%
Pittsburgh	6,000	2,833	47%
Washington D.C.	2,200	993	45%
Des Moines	1,400	533	38%
Cleveland	1,250	434	35%
Atlanta	3,200	1,045	33%
Miami	2,000	490	25%
Fresno	225	50	22%
Grand Junction	2,400	450	19%
Other		1,398	
U.S. Total	85,175	54,496	64%
Australia	900	532	59%
Sweden	250	50	20%
Belgium	550	0	0%
Iceland		40	
Int'l Total	93,640	60,778	61%
Int'l Goal/Should be	100,000	75,000	75%

Lessons of the Algerian Revolution

‘YS’ article assesses accomplishments and overthrow of workers and farmers

BY GREG MCCARTAN

Two weeks ago the *Militant* printed the preface by Mary-Alice Waters to Pathfinder's new book, *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*. Part of the story Waters tells in the preface was from the vantage point of a student in Paris in 1961-2 as the "Algerian independence struggle, paid for in blood by some 1 million Algerians, was rapidly approaching victory."

Paris, she notes, "resembled a city under siege during the closing months of the war. In the wake of a failed coup attempt, the Secret Army Organization (OAS), a clandestine fascist group based in the officer corps of the French army, had unleashed a campaign of bombings and assassinations in the capital aimed at bringing down the French government before it recognized Algerian independence. Paratroopers armed with submachine guns stood guard twenty-four hours a day on every street corner, and plastic bombs exploded nightly in mailboxes and other public locations throughout the city."

Waters joined student antifascist demonstrations that challenged the prohibition on street actions and faced off against the hated special police force, the Compagnie Républicaine de Sécurité (CRS). Many students were injured or arrested in the conflicts and eight people died in February 1962 when the CRS attacked a demonstration. That brutality proved to be a decisive turning point in public opposition to the war. The Evian Accords, recognizing Algerian independence, were signed a few months later.

In the wake of agreements with the

French government, a June 1962 meeting of the Algerian National Liberation Front (Front de Libération Nationale—FLN) adopted a revolutionary document called the Tripoli Program. The program noted that the mass participation in the struggle against French colonialism opened a new phase in Algerian history. Among other measures, it pointed to the need to deepen the mobilization of the masses of workers and peasants in order to carry out a sweeping agrarian reform; the nationalization of basic industry, transport, banks, and foreign trade; the widening of education throughout the country; and collaboration with anticolonial struggles around the world.

These events, together with the socialist revolution in Cuba, had a profound impact on revolutionary-minded young people of the day, Waters explains, helping them to become communists and to see the need to build revolutionary organizations in France, the United States, and elsewhere.

The Algerian Revolution of 1954-65 was one of the most powerful of the post-World War II anticolonial struggles that swept Asia and Africa. The French imperialist masters considered Algeria, conquered in 1830, to be an integral part of France, like the city of Paris or the Burgundy region. In response to the rising actions of the liberation movement, the French rulers unleashed a savage war to retain the country among their territories.

The first action of the FLN was a Nov. 1, 1954, guerrilla attack against French forces in the Aurès mountains of eastern Algeria. This took place just six months after the French defeat at Dien Bien Phu in

Vietnam—a defeat that spelled the end of French domination of Indochina and accelerated the disintegration of the French colonial empire.

By 1956 a *New York Times* report said that "99 percent of Moslems are converted now to the idea that there must be an Algerian nation instead of Algeria continuing as an official part of France. The insurrection has struck heavy blows to the life of France's main North African holding." Some areas in eastern Algeria, the paper reported, "are served now only by boat, plane, or convoy, and even military convoys are attacked."

The liberation struggle, which included armed attacks against all aspects of the colonial regime, won widespread support among villagers. In the cities, the FLN quickly won solid backing. The Casbah, a working-class district in the capital city of Algiers, where support for the FLN ran high, became famous as a no-go zone for the imperialist forces. Massive pro-independence demonstrations swept Algerian cities in 1960, making clear to the French government the determination of the Algerian people.

The root causes of this national liberation struggle were the social consequences of the economic exploitation of Algeria. "In 1954 the French settlers comprised only 11 percent of the population," Bob Chester wrote in *Workers and Farmers Governments Since the Second World War*, "yet they held 42 percent of the industrial jobs. Ninety percent of industrial and commercial activity was in European hands." They controlled the best agricultural areas, owning large, modern estates.

"In contrast," Chester wrote, "the Algerian people were exploited and repressed. Undernourishment was the norm for the majority of the native population. Ninety percent of the population was illiterate and only one Moslem child in ten went to school."

"Against this liberation struggle, France threw the full weight of its modern army, supplied with the latest weapons from NATO. In the seven-and-a-half-year war more than 400,000 French troops—including almost two-thirds of the air force and half the navy—engaged in the war. The French also used the most refined counterinsurgency methods. In addition to planes, tanks, and a naval blockade, they used electrified barriers to seal off the borders of Tunisia and Morocco, operated dragnets to isolate the rebels, and wiped out more than 8,000 villages in a scorched-earth program. They employed the most sophisticated and diabolic methods of terror, espionage, and torture in the attempt to smash the liberation movement.

"Casualties were extremely high. Two and a half million persons were displaced as a result of the war," Chester says, "and more than a million deaths were directly attributed to it. More than 300,000 orphaned children flooded the cities, while 300,000 other Algerians were driven into Tunisia and Morocco, where they became an additional base of the liberation struggle."

The workers and farmers government that came to power in Algeria in 1963 carried out far-reaching anticapitalist measures. "The nationalization of big properties of both European and Algerian landholders and the announcement of decrees definitively establishing Workers Management Committees, Workers Councils, and Work-

ers Assemblies have been received with enormous enthusiasm throughout Algeria," wrote *The Internationalist*—a precursor to *World Outlook*—in the lead article of the April 11, 1963, issue. "In a nationwide tour following announcement of the new measures, Ben Bella was greeted with celebrations reminiscent of those when independence was won last July. Entire populations of towns and villages turned out to hail the head of government...."

The government aided other national liberation struggles in Africa, for example, assisting in the opening of a headquarters in Algiers of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola in February 1963. A report in *The Internationalist* described a rally of 180,000 in Oran, Algeria, to express solidarity with the Angolan struggle against Portuguese imperialism.

The reprinting of the preface by Waters in the *Militant* two weeks ago sparked interest by readers who were unfamiliar with this chapter of revolutionary struggle. In response, we are reprinting below an article by Waters from the September-October 1965 issue of the *Young Socialist* that explains the conquests of the Algerian Revolution and the causes of the 1965 overthrow of the workers and farmers government headed by Ahmed Ben Bella.

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BY MARY-ALICE WATERS

The night of June 19, 1965, marked a decisive turning point in the Algerian Revolution. Minister of Defense, Col. Houari Boumédiène, backed by a section of his 60,000-man professional army and aided by a few important figures in the Algerian government, moved his troops with lightning speed to occupy key posts in the cities and countryside. The three year coalition between Ben Bella and Boumédiène, which in the summer of 1962 had ousted the neo-colonialist Provisional Government, was broken, and the army, headed

A word of explanation

When the editors of the *Militant* first proposed reprinting the article that appears on these pages I was very hesitant. Written some 36 years ago by an author still in her early 20s, who only hoped some day to become a Marxist, I feared it would be so full of errors that it could not stand the test of time.

It was, in fact, my first attempt at revolutionary journalism. I had been following the course of the Algerian Revolution closely, having developed an abiding interest in that powerful anti-imperialist struggle during my student days in France. That experience is described in the preface to Pathfinder Press's newest publication, *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*, by Jack Barnes. As a new young member of the Young Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers Party, our main source of information in addition to the *Militant* was the biweekly newsletter *World Outlook*, then published in Paris under the editorial direction of Joseph Hansen. Hansen was a former editor of the *Militant* and one of the central leaders of the Socialist Workers Party, then on international assignment based in France.

Some of Hansen's best writings on the Algerian Revolution, and the broader political and theoretical questions posed by the workers and farmers governments that came to power in both Cuba and Algeria in the transition period following their revolutionary victories, can be found in the *Education for Socialists* bulletin distributed by Pathfinder Press entitled "The Workers and Farmers Government" by Joseph Hansen.

On June 19, 1965, I accepted the invitation of the San Francisco Militant Labor Forum to give a presentation on recent developments in the Algerian Revolution. Except for some campus classes sponsored by the Berkeley chapter of the Young Socialist Alliance, it was my first public talk, a prospect so frightening that I had prepared for days and had every word written down. The meeting went well, much to my relief. More importantly, however, its timeliness was dem-

onstrated the next day when we opened the morning newspapers to learn that even while the forum was in progress, the workers and farmers government headed by Ahmed Ben Bella had been overthrown by forces directed by defense minister Houari Boumédiène.

I was on my way from California to New York to take up a new assignment in the national office of the Young Socialist Alliance, and the editors of the *Young Socialist* asked me to prepare for the next issue of the magazine the article that is reprinted here.

Were I to write something on the subject today, there are a number of things I would explain differently, of course, and things I would hope to be able to explain more clearly. Two points are especially jarring. One are the references to Ben Bella attempting to strengthen his "personal" power; the other is the depiction of Boumédiène as a military power broker. More could have been done to offer a clearer description of the petty-bourgeois class forces concentrated in the officer corps of the National Liberation Army (ALN) for whom Boumédiène was acting. And whatever his political mistakes in making leadership compromises, Ben Bella's goal was not personal power, but strengthening the workers and peasants of Algeria and advancing an anticapitalist course. That was what the Boumédiène coup definitively put an end to.

On balance, however, the article does offer a credible summary of some of the major issues and class forces that determined this watershed in the Algerian Revolution and for that reason may be useful. Perhaps it will also serve to encourage Young Socialists today to approach their first speaking and writing assignments with greater confidence, and to stimulate a deeper interest in the powerful anti-imperialist struggle that culminated in the Algerian Revolution among those who will soon be on their way to Algiers for the 15th World Festival of Youth and Students, August 8-16.

—MARY-ALICE WATERS



Algerian president Ahmed Ben Bella addresses rally in a small town. Ben Bella was "the popular leader of the socialist tendency of Algeria, and gained his support by his defense of the workers' and peasants' self-management committees in the nationalized sector of the economy, writes Waters. Plans to extend the land reform were cut short by the coup against Ben Bella.

lution

ners government

by Boumédiène, was now in control.

It was impossible for the Boumédiène government to maintain the myth of normalcy in the face of continuing riots, some of which were severely suppressed. However, by July 5, the third anniversary of Algerian independence, calm had returned to the streets and demonstrations had ceased. The weakness of the opposition to the coup is evidence of the prevailing apathy of the Algerian people in the absence of any organization capable of inspiring them with a will to resist. At the same time, however, the protests that did erupt indicated fibres of strength within the Algerian revolution.

Boumédiène had learned that Ben Bella intended to move decisively against the ever growing influence of the army in governmental affairs, and it was rumored that at the next meeting of the Political Bureau of the National Liberation Front (FLN), Ben Bella would ask for the removal of Foreign Minister Bouteflika who was considered to be in the far right-wing of the government. These moves would have strengthened Ben Bella's personal power, but combined with an extension of the land reform planned for the summer of 1965, they would have marked another significant step forward for the Algerian revolution.

Prior to the coup, debate over Algeria's economic and political direction had taken place daily within the leading bodies of the Algerian government. The Tripoli Program, the political platform adopted by the FLN in June 1962, had proclaimed that "the Popular Democratic Revolution is the conscious construction of the country according to socialist principles with the power in the hands of the people. In order that the development of Algeria be rapid and harmonious, and in order that the primary economic needs of the people be satisfied, it must be conceived within a socialist perspective, within the framework of collectivization of the basic means of production and within the framework of a rational plan."

Although this socialist perspective was frequently reaffirmed in the documents of the FLN, nearly half the seats on the National Committee and Political Bureau of the FLN were given to men opposed to the development of the nationalized sector of the economy, and opposed to the self-management committees. These political figures sabotaged attempts to limit speculation, and fought against restricting foreign profits.

Because this tendency favoring the capitalist sector of the economy was supported by most of the state apparatus, operations of the nationalized sector were continually hampered.

The other major political tendency in the FLN, was headed by Ben Bella. Its strongest base of support was in the self-management committees, which developed in response to the vacuum created by the exodus of Europeans during the last months of the war. Eighty percent of them (virtually the entire middle class of Algeria) fled the country in early 1962, leaving farms, shops, and industries without owners or managers. With the fields full of crops, the peasants organized and brought in the harvest, dividing the proceeds among themselves. Soon these spontaneous peasant committees completely controlled large sections of the land throughout Algeria.

Workers self-management

The same spontaneous appropriation took place in the industrial sector of the economy, resulting in the formation of factory committees that administered the plants. The Ben Bella government responded by legalizing and supporting the development of self-management, and by significantly strengthening the nationalized sector of the economy.

Ben Bella's effectiveness as a leader, however, was severely limited by the fact that he chose to play a mediating role between the two major factions within the government, balancing off left against right, making concessions first to one and then the other in an attempt to appease all. Boumédiène, on the other hand, aligned himself with neither the

left wing nor the right, but based his support on the army.

The struggle between capitalist and socialist tendencies revealed itself most sharply over the question of extending the land reform to affect the large holdings of Algerian proprietors. According to the Paris daily *Le Monde*, only one quarter of Algeria's farm land is now included in the self-managed sector. Half is divided into tiny plots of a few acres which barely sustain the peasants working them. The remaining quarter consists of large farms of several hundred acres owned by Algerians. European land holdings were nationalized in the fall of 1963.

Although it was announced more than a year and a half ago that a decree was being drawn up to limit the extent of private holdings, it was never implemented. Had this step been taken, it would have created great opposition among the Algerian proprietors and resulted in a split in the government. However, the outcome of such a split would have been an important step forward for the revolution because the socialist forces, by taking the initiative and extending the benefits of the revolution to the most oppressed peasants, would have gained their active and enthusiastic support.

Instead of inspiring the peasants with the will to extend their revolution, Ben Bella made deals within the leadership of the government while attempting to increase his personal power. Because of this, the military coup appeared to the masses of peasants as just another leadership intrigue meaning little. While Ben Bella compromised himself more and more by back-corridor politics within the leading circles of the government, the neo-colonialist forces were gaining strength. The industrial working class of Algeria felt itself threatened and expressed its discontent in both word and action, as indicated by the strikes of January 1965, where it demanded higher wages and better job security.

Due to the low level of economic development, however, the industrial working class within Algeria is extremely small, numbering only 100,000 in a population of over ten million. Yet this small percentage of the population has expressed itself loudly and frequently on ev-



Mass rallies, such as the one above in Algiers in July 1964, were a feature of the revolution at turning points such as the nationalization of industries and properties of big landholders. Despite these gains, the army opposed "the formation of local militias which would have become the primary defense organizations of the revolution." It was able to "prevent the implementation of the decision of the National Congress of the FLN to create a popular militia," Waters writes.

ery basic problem facing the revolution.

The self-managed sector of industry accounts for a very small percentage of the total production of Algeria, and controls only four percent of Algeria's basic industry. Nine-tenths of the industrial workers are employed by privately owned companies, and in addition to this, Algeria has more than one million unemployed. Many of the industries abandoned in 1962 have never reopened, due to lack of trained personnel, but it was projected that all newly opened industries would begin production again under the control of self-management committees.

In the privately owned factories, the demand for workers' control over production was raised more than a year ago by the union at Renault-Algerie which "asked the government to promulgate a law instituting workers control in the non-self-managed enterprises" (*Le Peuple*, May 28, 1964). The demand was immediately taken up by other unions and confirmed by the National Congress of the UGTA, the Algerian General Trade Union, meeting in Algiers in March, 1965. At this congress, the workers' dissatisfaction with their present leadership was so deep, that they voted the entire UGTA Executive Committee out of office, replacing it with many rank-and-file militants, including two women. (*Le Peuple*, March 29, 1965).

A week after the Boumédiène coup this new leadership passed a resolution which stated, "The opening provided by the event that occurred on June 19 would be put in question by the return to the political scene of careerists and opportunist elements, who are also responsible for the lack of respect for our institutions.... For June 19 to become a genuine opening, it is necessary to also permit the emergence of tested militants, clear about their options, courageous

in the expression of their opinions, and who have proved their genuine attachment to socialism." (*Le Monde*, June 29, 1965)

This resolution emphasized that "the extreme weakness of the party in organizational structure...and the failure to apply democratic centralism and the absence of a collective leadership" permitted "the reinforcement of personal power and the practice of anti-democratic methods." It went on to demand that "the FLN, party of the vanguard, be composed mainly of workers, of poor peasants and revolutionary intellectuals."

The composition, role, and structure of the FLN has been one of the most important disputes in the three years of Algeria's independence. Between 1954 and 1962 the National Liberation Front and its military arm, the Army of National Liberation, were well organized, efficient fighting organizations. They gained the support of the vast majority of the population and offered the country unity in its struggle against French domination. However, the leadership, by and large, was still fettered to the military-bureaucratic concepts of the army and the feudal-colonial structure it had always known. This phenomenon has been studied and analyzed by the FLN in the Tripoli Program: "Paradoxical as it may appear, the national revolutionary struggle is perceived and felt in its newness and its originality by the popular masses more than by the leadership and the directorates.... We have witnessed and are still witnessing a very serious lack of contact between, on the one hand, the collective consciousness tested in reality, and on the other hand, the practice and authority of the FLN at all levels. Very often, in a paternalistic manner, the authority has purely and simply substituted itself for political responsibility which is inseparable from the

Continued on page 10

CUBA and the Coming American Revolution by Jack Barnes

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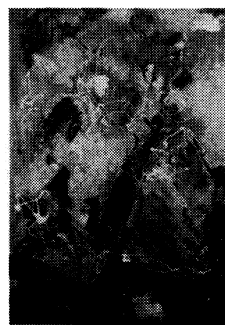
There will be a victorious revolution in the United States before a victorious counterrevolution in Cuba — Fidel Castro, March 1961

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution is about the struggles of working people in the imperialist heartland, the youth who are attracted to them, and the example set by the people of Cuba that revolution is not only necessary—it can be made. It is about the class struggle in the United States, where the revolutionary capacities of workers and farmers are today as utterly discounted by the ruling powers as were those of the Cuban toilers. And just as wrongly.

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CUBA and the COMING AMERICAN REVOLUTION



JACK BARNES

NEW FROM PATHFINDER

Continued from Page 9
search for an ideology."

More important, the leadership was not ideologically prepared to deal with the struggles and splits that inevitably developed once the fighting stopped. This has disoriented the Algerian people time and again, and their weak response to the Boumedienne coup is merely the latest tragedy resulting from the ideological meanderings of the revolution's leadership.

A merger between the National Liberation Front and the state followed Algeria's victory over France. The army, however, maintained itself as a professional fighting unit, resisting the formation of local militias which would have become the primary defensive organizations of the revolution. This was one of the major points of contention between Boumedienne and Ben Bella. So strong was the army in this dispute that it was able to prevent the implementation of a decision of the National Congress of the FLN to create a popular militia.

A June 6, 1964, editorial in *Revolution Africaine*, written by Mohammed Harbi, declared that "the only effective way to meet these plots [terrorist acts of the OAS and the counterrevolution] is to set up without delay a *popular militia*, as was advocated by the Congress. The arming of the people is one of the main acts by which the revolutionary will of the leaders can be recognized. It is the only way that will make it possible to galvanize the energy of the people." (original emphasis). The publication of this editorial and others like it resulted in Ben Bella's removing Mohammed Harbi from his post as editor, in order to appease Boumedienne.

Did not build vanguard party

As the FLN and the state apparatus became more completely fused, the FLN became less the party of the vanguard and more thoroughly bureaucratized. Though the self-management committees and national unions of peasants and workers were still able to voice criticisms and put forward proposals for action, the FLN was not able to serve the function of a revolutionary party, bringing together the most conscious elements. Thus, no mechanism existed to hold the state apparatus in check; there was no form for developing leadership, and no way to educate the peasants and workers for the new struggles that continually faced them. As a consequence, it became extremely difficult for the leadership to win enthusiasm, incentive, and direction from the peasants and workers. The National Congress of the FLN, meeting in the spring of 1964, recognized the need for

such a revolutionary party and proposed to transform itself into such an organization by bringing into it more peasants and workers, and by expelling those who actively sabotaged the socialist perspective. However, the failure of the left wing of the FLN to resolutely work for this objective made the party unable to function as the vanguard, thus paving the way for Boumedienne's coup.

Because the FLN contained within it all the conflicting class interests of the country, it was unable to come to grips with the most pressing problems of the revolution. Land reform was one such problem, and control over natural resources and foreign investment was another. Under Ben Bella only minimal restrictions were placed on profits leaving the country, and upon taking power, Boumedienne rushed to assure the capitalist countries that investments in Algeria were secure.

Role of oil

The key role of oil in the Algerian economy can hardly be over-emphasized. If the petroleum industry were nationalized, the profits, most of which now go to foreign investors, would provide the necessary capital for trade and industrial development. These proceeds would enable Algeria to develop her other natural resources such as iron and natural gas. These profits could be reinvested in basic industries which in turn could produce machinery to expand existing industries and develop new ones. Such investment would also increase the size of the working class, as well as stabilize it financially, further strengthening the mass base of the socialist tendency. Furthermore, the openings for employment would attract from Europe much of the 400,000-man Algerian working class that still lives outside of the country and which is more highly skilled than the average worker living in Algeria. Tractors and other machines could be produced to mechanize the existing farms and make it profitable for the small peasants to collectivize their holdings. This would increase output and raise the rural standard of living greatly. In short, nationalization of the oil would lay the basis for the development of an industrialized Algeria, and in addition, provide money for construction, land reclamation, education, and medical care.

Those who favor a neo-colonialist development for Algeria, however, depend upon foreign capital to solve the industrial and employment problems of the country. They argue that since capitalism is responsible for the highly developed industrial economies of France, the United States, and

Britain, why not Algeria? A close look at this argument reveals that the contradictions involved are tremendous. Those who favor capitalist development in underdeveloped countries today are opposed to those aspects of capitalism that made it at one time a socially progressive system. Those who support neocolonialism oppose land reform, oppose the creation of a militia, oppose the development of a self-sustaining economy, and oppose the basic freedoms traditionally associated with middle class revolutions. It was the promise of these demands being fulfilled that historically justified the political ascendancy of the capitalist class.

The Algerian middle class, however, does not have the capital necessary to solve the immense social and economic problems that face the country. Consequently, in order to retain its relatively privileged social position it must rely on the power of foreign investment to deal with these issues. In this way, it is forced to play the role of unwilling broker for foreign investors. *Boumedienne, regardless of his intentions, will be forced either to play this role or to seek a new base of support in the masses of Algerian peasants and workers by extending and deepening the revolution. No alternative course exists for Algeria.*

The middle class is caught in a contradiction, resulting from the fact that foreign investors have no desire to develop the Algerian economy, but only to extract those materials that are useful to the economies of Europe and North America. It is little wonder, however, that the middle class has been forced to act in this manner. For decades its own development has been subordinated to the interests of the European investor who has determined—through force of arms and the power of the franc—the economic, social, and political structure of Algeria.

Without a rationally planned economy determining how profits will be invested, and how resources will be allocated, the wealth of Algeria will be accumulated by only a small handful of Algerians, with the lion's share going to foreign investors.

Social Democrats and Stalinists

The failures and the successes of the Algerian revolution in dealing with these problems must be carefully studied and the lessons absorbed by anti-colonial forces the world over. It is unlikely, however, that any clarity will be forthcoming from the parties of the Second or Third Internationals. Their willingness to compromise the Algerian Revolution has already been sharply demonstrated. The Soviet Union even refused to recognize the FLN until France had done so. The struggle against France was greatly prolonged due to the isolation imposed on the FLN by the Communist bloc and by the leadership of the Communist and Socialist Parties of France.

This treacherous role was recognized by the FLN when it stated in the Tripoli Program that "the French political left, which has always played a role in the anti-colonial struggle on a theoretical level, revealed itself powerless in face of the unforeseen implacable development of the war. Their political action remained timid and ineffective because of their old assimilationist conceptions, and their erroneous idea of the evolutionary nature of the colonial regime, and its ability to transform itself peacefully."

China, too, has revealed itself devoid of revolutionary principle in its dealings with Algeria. Considering diplomatic maneuvers with the Soviet Union and the neo-colonialist regimes of Africa to be more important than the fate of the Algerian revo-



The Algiers Casbah, a working-class stronghold of FLN. Writing on wall says, "Long live FLN." The FLN was "not able to serve the function of a revolutionary party, bringing together the most conscious elements," Waters says. The overthrow of the workers and farmers government headed by Ben Bella represented a "serious setback both for the Algerian revolution and the worldwide anti-imperialist struggle."

lution, China rushed to endorse the military council of Col. Boumedienne the day following the coup. In this way China hoped to gain favor with the new regime and thus be allowed to play a major role in the Afro-Asian Conference, scheduled to begin June 29. The outraged students of Algiers showed their contempt by publicly burning the Chinese flag in the streets.

D. N. Aidit, head of the Indonesian Communist Party, the largest Communist Party in the nonsocialist world and under Peking's influence, stated to the press three days after Ben Bella's ouster that the coup came as no surprise to him, for Ben Bella was following a right-wing policy "contrary to the aspirations of the Algerian people." Aidit went even further to say, "The situation in Algiers is now better than it was under the regime of Ben Bella. We should thank Col. Boumedienne for his efforts to create a better atmosphere in the final days preceding the Afro-Asian Conference."

Mao Tse-tung notwithstanding, the military coup led by Boumedienne is a serious setback both for the Algerian revolution and the worldwide anti-imperialist struggle. In sharp contrast to China's attitude, the response of the revolutionary leadership of Cuba was to condemn the military seizure of power as having "no possible justification." (*The Militant*, July 26, 1965). Knowing full well that Cuba was risking a diplomatic break with Boumedienne, Castro stated, "If they should break relations with us, they should not be the first military regime to do so. We are thinking of the future, and we do not act as opportunists, but as Marxist-Leninists."

Ben Bella unquestionably made serious mistakes during his three years of leadership. He relied on compromises and deals within the leading circles rather than appealing to the workers and peasants; he substituted personal power for collective leadership; and most important, he failed to lead the left wing of the FLN in a fight to transform the party into an organization capable of protecting and extending the gains of the revolution. Despite Ben Bella's failures, he was the popular leader of the socialist tendency of Algeria, and gained his support by his defense of the workers' and peasants' self-management committees which controlled the nationalized sector of the economy.

Although the military leaders who removed Ben Bella from power are not the direct instruments of counterrevolution, their coup can serve only to encourage those hostile to the socialist development of Algeria. Boumedienne's isolation from the masses of peasants and workers will oblige him to depend even more on the support of the imperialist powers.

Unless the people of Algeria organize to prevent the consolidation of the Boumedienne regime, it will be a long time before the revolution takes another step forward.

For further reading from Pathfinder

The Fight for a Workers and Farmers Government in the United States

by Jack Barnes

In *New International* no. 4. The shared exploitation of workers and farmers by banking, industrial, and commercial capital lays the basis for their alliance in a revolutionary fight for a government of the producers. Also includes "The Crisis Facing Working Farmers" by Doug Jenness and "Land Reform and Farm Cooperatives in Cuba." \$12.00

The Workers and Farmers Government

by Joseph Hansen

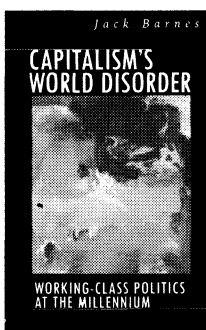
How experiences in revolutions following World War II in Yugoslavia, China, Algeria, and Cuba enriched communists' theoretical understanding of revolutionary governments of the toilers. Includes "The Algerian Revolution from 1962 to 1969." \$7.00

Capitalism's World Disorder: Working-Class Politics at the Millennium

BY JACK BARNES

"The capitalist rulers offer us social disaster. They offer us depression. They offer us death from curable disease. They offer us war. They offer us fascism. They offer us an unending list of horrors. But we offer ourselves the ability to prevent those horrors from becoming the final reality, the confidence that we can transform that future."

Also available in Spanish and French. \$23.95



Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Tel: (212) 741-0690. Please include \$3 for shipping and handling.

Socialist garment workers get involved in social struggles

BY NAOMI CRAINE
AND NAN BAILEY

PITTSBURGH—Socialist workers in the garment and textile industries met here May 26–27 to discuss how the spread of working-class struggles is favorably impacting their political work in factories organized by the Union Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees, as well as in some plants not currently organized by UNITE.

The main report to the meeting was given by Chicago sewing machine operator Lisa Potash, a member of UNITE Local 39-C.

“We need to start with following the lines of resistance in the working class and small farmers as a whole,” Potash said, “not limit our political focus strictly to developments in the industry we work in.”

Potash explained that making the goals for the international drive to win new readers to the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and to sell Pathfinder’s new title *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* and other Pathfinder pamphlets is essential to carrying out this perspective over the coming weeks.

Members of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists from 17 cities and towns across the United States participated in the meeting. A member of UNITE who is a leader of the Communist League from Toronto took part in the discussion.

The UNITE national fraction meeting coincided with a meeting of socialist coal miners and a meeting of the party’s national farm work committee. All the participants in these meetings were able to attend a special Militant Labor Forum here titled “Twenty-two years of the Iranian Revolution: Reportback from the Tehran International Book Fair,” by Cindy Jacquith, a garment worker in Miami.

Potash quoted from *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics* by Jack Barnes, which has been used as a guide to the SWP’s work in the unions since the party made a decision to concentrate its members in basic industry in the late 1970s.

“The party’s political work in the industrial unions takes as its starting point the world class struggle, the crisis of the international capitalist economy and imperialist world order, and their manifestations in this country. It is these forces that establish the conditions under which the struggle to defend, strengthen, and transform the unions takes place. It is only with this broader perspective—not the narrow framework of union politics—that the road can be charted toward constructing a class-struggle left wing in the labor movement, whose goal will be the transformation of the unions into instruments of revolutionary struggle against the employers and their government.”

Joining social struggles and strikes

Potash cited examples of how socialist workers in UNITE and other unions have been carrying out effective work in the

weeks leading up to this fraction meeting.

Communists who are mine workers in the anthracite region of eastern Pennsylvania began to carry out more effective political work as they moved deeper into the mining region and started relating to social issues and struggles beyond the mining industry, such as a fight by residents of a working-class neighborhood whose homes have been contaminated by leaking underground gasoline tanks, as well as the contract fight at the nearby Hollander Home Fashions plant. “As a result of this work in support of the Hollander strike,” emphasized Potash, “a socialist mine worker joined a busload of strikers from Hollander who traveled to Baltimore on May 16 to support workers on strike at the Up-to-Date laundry.

“Racist discrimination and sexual harassment are among the deep social issues involved in the laundry workers’ strike,” pointed out John Studer, a UNITE member from Philadelphia who also took part in the Baltimore rally. “We can dig into developments like this one and find vanguard workers who are interested in meeting others like themselves and discussing broader politics.”

The second example Potash gave was the work done in Colorado with uranium miners and their spouses and other relatives who are demanding government compensation for the deaths and devastating health effects that the mine bosses and the government were responsible for. “A *Militant* sold to a student on campus led to contact with uranium miners who were friends of the student’s grandmother, a widow of a uranium miner. We went to have discussions with them, to get to know them better,” she reported.



Militant/John Studer

Rally to support Up-To-Date Laundry strikers, members of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees in Baltimore, May 16.

The wealthy mining bosses and the government that supports them in Washington turned their backs on these miners and their families, Potash said. But the workers have refused to roll over. Their resistance to these attacks sets an example for the current generation of fighters in the mining regions, who will face a similar onslaught from the employers as oil and natural gas drilling and coal-mining is expanded and safety regulations gutted under the government’s banner of raising energy supplies, stated Potash.

The discussion with the uranium miners and their families took up major questions, she said, from why the capitalist system only offers more devastation and no solutions to the problems working people face, the perspectives of the ultraright versus socialism, and the example of the Cuban Revolution. “This work led to sales of subscriptions, Pathfinder books, and some important political contacts we can do further work with,” Potash said.

In mid-May UNITE members working at Hollander Home Fashions won their 10-week strike in Vernon, California, and two-week strike in Frackville, Pennsylvania. Workers at a Hollander plant in Tignall, Georgia, honored a picket line set up by strikers for the duration of the California strike.

“This was an important strike,” Potash said. “The workers who went through it learned a lot about solidarity and emerged stronger, with more of a sense of themselves as part of a working class. Many members of our fraction across the country got involved. While this strike is now behind us, our timely response puts our party in a better position for when the next fight breaks out.”

Following up with these workers to subscribe to the *Militant*, read books from Pathfinder, and attend the June 14–17 Active Workers Conference in Ohio is now the immediate challenge before socialists who

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Communist workers in mines join actions of initial social movement in coalfield regions

BY TONY LANE

PITTSBURGH—A two-day meeting here of socialist coal miners discussed the deepening working-class resistance in the coalfields and the opportunities to build the communist movement among coal miners and other working-class fighters in these areas. The Socialist Workers Party members working in the mines put reaching coal miners and other working people in the coalfields with the *Militant* and socialist books and pamphlets at the center of their work. Socialists working in the mines are fighting to meet their goals of selling 25 subscriptions to the *Militant* and 25 socialist pamphlets to coal miners as part of the international circulation campaign by the June 10 deadline.

Participating in the meeting were miners from Colorado, anthracite miners from eastern Pennsylvania, and miners from south-

western Pennsylvania and from Alabama.

The meeting took note of recent advances by units of the party in the coalfields in orienting their activity to a broad array of working-class struggles and organizing regular sales of socialist books and newspapers at mines where socialists work and expanding door-to-door sales in nearby communities. Through these efforts the socialist coal miners are also fighting to get a number of workers and young people to the June 14–17 Active Workers Conference in Oberlin, Ohio, sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists.

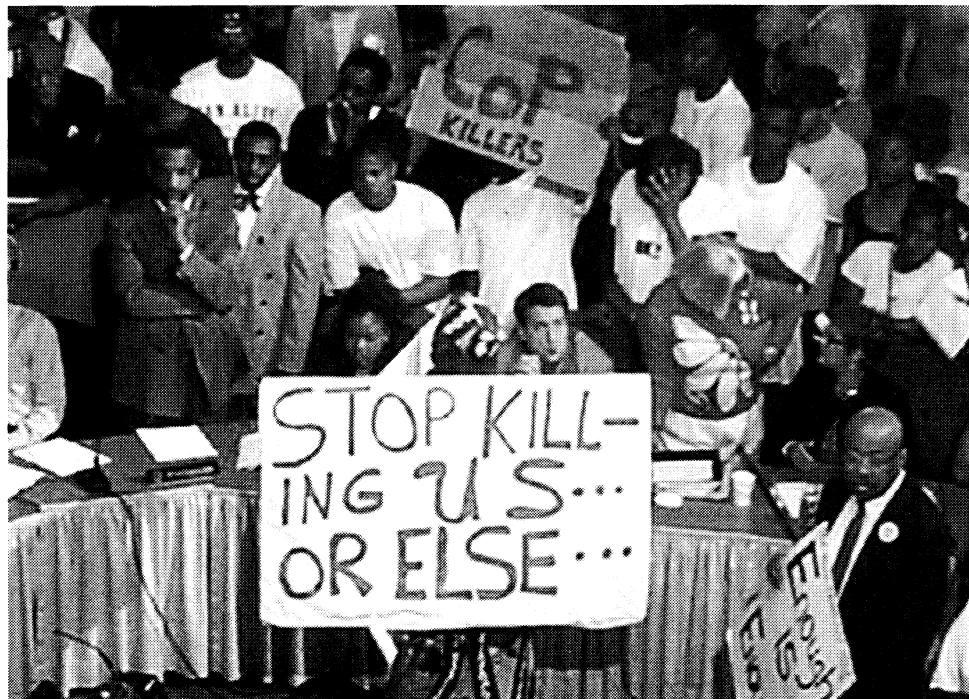
A socialist coal miner from Colorado, David Bayer, explained, “We need to build on the things we have done; in this process, the *Militant* becomes part of strengthening the fights working people are involved in.” Coming out of the meeting, socialist coal miners plan to anchor teams in the western coalfields and southern West Virginia to make their goals for the circulation campaign and get contacts to attend the active workers conference.

“Winning a broader hearing for revolutionary ideas is based on what is happening in coalfield communities,” explained Frank Forrestal, a member of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 1248 and an underground miner in southwestern Pennsylvania, in a report to open the meeting. He pointed out there is “more happening, more hiring, more organizing by the UMWA. There are also more protests against environmental disasters and some strikes taking place in coalfield communities like the recent Hollander strike by garment workers.” We are seeing “more groups of workers ready to fight and with that mood are open to socialist ideas.” Socialist coal miners from eastern Pennsylvania attending the meeting pointed to the confidence of Hollander garment workers from Frackville, in the heart of the an-

thrastite mining region, as they returned to work after their strike, and the receptiveness among many of them to the *Militant* newspaper.

Coal miner Mary Reston from Colorado highlighted the work being done by the SWP organizing committee established in the western coalfields. Socialist workers there have reached out to uranium miners and their families fighting government and capitalist indifference to the conditions many of them face after years of mining this radioactive substance, discussing with them what sort of government working people need. Socialists in Colorado have also met with meat packers and won new subscribers to *Perspectiva Mundial*, and participated with students helping to get out the truth about the Cuban Revolution, as well as stepping up efforts to meet coal miners at portals and through door-to-door efforts. In the past six months they have sent a number of teams to Wyoming and Arizona to renew contacts with UMWA members who were on strike

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Cincinnati Enquirer/Glenn Hartong

Protesters jam Cincinnati Council chambers April 9 in response to cop killing of Timothy Thomas, the fourth such killing in five months. Communist workers described how they are joining in broad social struggles in addition to union battles.

Young Socialist Fund Drive May 6–July 1

Pittsburgh	200	202	101%
New York	700	260	37%
Seattle	90	25	28%
Twin Cities	300	78	26%
Tucson	300	45	15%
Chicago	300		0%
Los Angeles	450		0%
Philadelphia	150		0%
Tuscaloosa			
Other		427	
Total	\$2,290	\$1,037	45%
Nat'l goal/should be	\$2,400	900	38%

Republican senator's defection will change little

BY MAGGIE TROWE

Vermont senator James Jeffords's May 24 decision to quit the Republican Party and become an "independent" shifted the Senate balance to a Democratic Party majority for the first time since 1994.

Jeffords's move resulted in Democratic senator Thomas Daschle becoming Senate majority leader. The majority party controls the flow of legislation and holds all committee chairmanships.

Democratic Party leaders asserted that this shift would mean a change in the direction of Congress, with their party providing

an antidote to what they term the "radical" policies of President George Bush. The Bush White House and Congress have been ruling from the center, however, and have taken a substantially bipartisan approach both to foreign and domestic policy. There is no sign that this course will fundamentally change.

With the Senate split evenly between the two capitalist parties, such a shift was likely to have happened at some point, and could happen again—if New Jersey Democratic senator Robert Torricelli were to resign in face of current corruption charges, if the aging Republican Strom Thurmond were to

retire, or if conservative Democrat Zell Miller of Georgia switched sides.

The Republicans do not have a large enough majority, however, to guarantee they can carry most votes without support from some Democrats, a situation that makes it unlikely that the Bush administration would attempt to push substantially further to the right. Similarly, while the committee chairmanships will now be dominated by Democrats—Jeffords received a committee chairmanship as a reward for leaving the Republicans—the committees' composition doesn't change. They all remain split down the middle.

Opinion columnists have noted that the one beneficiary of Jeffords's switch may be Daschle, who by becoming Senate majority leader boosts his profile and his prospects as a potential Democratic candidate for president in 2004.

With a slight Democratic majority in the upper house, Bush may run into difficulties on several nominees for high posts. But while many Bush nominations are currently stalled in Congress, several hotly contested appointments have passed with bipartisan support.

For example, sparks flew briefly over the nomination of John Ashcroft for attorney general, known for his anti-abortion rights stance and other sharply conservative posi-

tions, but in the end he was confirmed with support from both parties. The Senate approved Bush's nomination of Theodore Olson for solicitor general, with Democrats Zell Miller from Georgia and Benjamin Nelson of Nebraska voting with Republicans.

Jeffords, in a May 24 press conference, said he was leaving the Republican Party because of "serious, substantive reservations" about Bush's budget proposals and because he foresees "more instances where I will disagree with the President on very fundamental issues: the issue of choice, the direction of the judiciary, tax and spending decisions, missile defense, energy and the environment, and a host of other issues, large and small. The largest for me is education." However, he has frequently voted with Democrats during his 18-year tenure in the Senate, under administrations of both parties.

Democratic politicians have tried to paint their party in a favorable light as leading a fight against the ideological right wing in the Republican Party that they accuse Bush of caving in to.

James Carville and Paul Begala, both top White House advisors under Clinton, signed an op-ed piece in the *New York Times* May 27 titled "A Battle Plan for the Democrats"

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Youth conference in Havana

Continued from front page

the U.S. Treasury Department to facilitate legal travel to Cuba, given the U.S. restrictions on travel.

"We also are starting a study group before our meetings to prepare ourselves before our trip. We need to know what we should be looking for and what questions we need to be asking in order to take advantage of the opportunity to visit a country where capitalism no longer dominates and where a workers and farmers revolution has taken place. The classes aren't mandatory and we aren't grading each other. The first text we are discussing is a speech by Fidel Castro to the United Nations on Sept. 26, 1960, that explains in detail the conditions and the events that led to the revolution."

According to Sanja Petrovich, a co-chair of the group here, those working to take part in the Youth Exchange include five students from the University of Minnesota and two from Hamline University. In addition, she said, about eight young people from St. Cloud, Minnesota, are planning to attend. St. Cloud State University has been the center of recent protests against racist attacks on Jewish and Black faculty members encouraged by the school administration.

Publicity for the Youth Exchange was prominently displayed at the University of Minnesota when supporters posted promotional leaflets all around the campus. In addition, a number of announcements have been made in classes. About 70 students signed up several weeks ago for more information during the tour of eight college campuses in Minnesota by Cuban youth leaders Yanelis Martínez and Javier Dueñas.

The Youth Exchange Information Center

has volunteered to be a national clearinghouse for information in the United States about the Youth Exchange. It has a new Internet web site with information about travel logistics, steps necessary to obtain Treasury Department licenses, the official invitation from the sponsoring organizations in Cuba, and sample leaflets.

The Internet address for the Youth Exchange Information Center is <http://youthxchange01.8m.com>.

The Information Center has a new office in the American Indian Learning Resource Center at the University of Minnesota here. The plans are for the Information Center to be staffed five days a week in the afternoons and for the center to be easily accessible by e-mail and phone. The e-mail address is youthxchange01@yahoo.com and the new telephone number is 763-443-8730.

The e-mail and statement of purpose of the Youth Exchange have been sent to affiliated organizations of the National Network on Cuba, a coalition of organizations that oppose Washington's hostile policies toward Cuba. The website of the National Network on Cuba also lists the e-mail address of the Youth Exchange Information Center and its statement of purpose.

According to Paulsen, inquiries are received each day from young people in cities where organizing for the Youth Exchange is taking place.

A number of activities are being organized to help raise money for travel to Cuba for youth from the Twin Cities. Petrovich is offering assistance to students who are seeking to apply for grants from the University of Minnesota. An "Intermedia Arts Night" is being organized June 15 by a leader of the Resource Center of the Americas, a local group. A fund-raising social is also planned for June 9 that will be widely publicized.

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution. Pathfinder Fund benefit. Speaker: Róger Calero, *Militant* staff writer, attended recent national congress of Central Organization of Cuban Workers in Havana. Fri., June 8. Reception 6:30 p.m., Program 7:30 p.m. 465 Boulevard, Suite 214. Donation: \$10, \$5 for program only. Tel: (404) 622-8917.

NEW YORK

Garment District

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution. Pathfinder Fund benefit. Speaker: Martin Koppel, *Militant* editor. Fri., June 1. Reception 6:30 p.m., Program 7:30 p.m.

Labor Struggles and Social Movements Today. Speaker: Jason Alessio. Fri., June 8, 7:30 p.m. Both programs at 545 8th Ave., 14th Floor. Donation \$4. Tel: (212) 695-7358.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Strike at Up-to-Date Laundry in Baltimore

and Results of Walkout at Hollander Home Fashions. Speakers: John Studer, member UNITE and Socialist Workers Party; representative, UNITE Local 133-I in Frackville, Pennsylvania. Sat., June 2. Dinner 6:00 p.m., Program 7:30 p.m. 5237 N. 5th St. Donation \$5 for program, \$5 for dinner. Tel: (215) 324-7020.

BRITAIN

London

Iran: 22 Years After the Revolution. Speaker: Tony Hunt, participant in Pathfinder sales team at the recent Tehran International Book Fair. Fri., June 8, 7:00 p.m. 47 The Cut. Tel: 020-7928-7993.

NEW ZEALAND

Christchurch

The 1951 Waterfront Lockout: Fighting to Build and Defend Unions 50 Years On. Fri. June 8, 7:00 p.m. Gloucester Arcade, 129 Gloucester St. Donation: \$3. Tel: 365-6055.

CALENDAR

MICHIGAN

Ann Arbor

National Student and Youth Conference to Defend Affirmative Action and Integration, and Struggle for Equality.

Fri.-Sun., June 1-3. University of Michigan campus. Organizers include: Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action and Integration, and Fight for Equality by Any Means Necessary; Rainbow/PUSH; and United for Equality and Affirmative Action. Register at <http://www.bamn.com/conference>.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Stop the Killing Before It Starts! Rally against the Death Penalty. Sun., June 3, 1:30 p.m. Bryant Park, 42nd Street and 6th Avenue. Sponsors include: New York Civil Liberties Union; AFSCME District Council 1707; HERE Local 100; New Yorkers against the Death Penalty. For more information, call (212) 344-3005, ext. 238.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Columbia

Drop All Charges against the Charleston Five! March and rally to demand justice for International Longshoremen's Association members charged with "inciting to riot." Sat., June 9, 11:00 a.m. Assemble at Memorial Park (corner of Gadsden and Hampton). March to statehouse for a rally at noon. For more information, call (888) 716-7362, or visit www.scpronet.com

Buses leaving from New York:

Central Labor Council, corner of 27th Street and Park Avenue South. Round trip \$10. Leaves June 8 at 6:00 p.m. For more information (212) 684-3641.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Class series on Cuba and the Coming American Revolution. Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m. 5237 N. 5th St. Tel: (215) 324-7020.

Where to find Pathfinder books and distributors of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, *New International*, *Nouvelle Internationale*, *Nueva Internacional* and *Ny International*.

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GEORGIA: Atlanta: 465 Boulevard, Suite 214. Zip: 30312. Tel: (404) 622-8917. E-mail: atlpathfinder@cs.com

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MINNESOTA: St. Paul: 1569 Sherburne Ave. W., St. Paul. Zip: 55104. Tel: (651) 644-

6325. E-mail: TC6446325@cs.com

NEW JERSEY: Newark: 506 Springfield Ave. 3rd floor. Zip: 07103. Mailing address: Riverfront Plaza, P.O. Box 200117. Zip: 07102-0302. Tel: (973) 643-3341. E-mail: swpnewark@usa.net

NEW YORK: Brooklyn: 372A 53rd St. (at 4th Ave.) Mailing address: PMB 197, 655 Fulton St. Zip: 11217. Tel: (718) 567-8014. E-mail: swpbrooklyn@earthlink.net **Garment District,** 545 8th Ave. Mailing address: P.O. Box 30. Zip: 10018. Tel: (212) 695-7358. E-mail: nygd@usa.net; **Upper Manhattan:** 540 W. 165 St. Mailing address: 3792 Broadway #250. Zip: 10032. Tel: (212) 740-4611. E-mail: swpuptown@usa.net; **Pathfinder Mural Bookstore:** 167 Charles St. Zip: 10014. Tel: (212) 366-1973.

OHIO: Cleveland: 11018 Lorain Ave. Zip: 44111. Tel: (216) 688-1190. E-mail: 103253.1111@compuserve.com

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WASHINGTON, D.C.: 3541 14th St. N.W. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 722-6221. E-mail: dc-swp@starpower.net

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 5418 Rainier Avenue South. Zip: 98118-2439. Tel: (206) 323-1755. E-mail: swpseattle@qwest.net

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: 1st Flr, 176 Redfern St., Redfern

NSW 2016. Mailing address: P.O. Box K879, Haymarket Post Office, NSW 1240. Tel: 02-9690-1533.

E-mail: 106450.2216@compuserve.com

BRITAIN

London: 47 The Cut. Postal code: SE1 8LL. Tel: 020-7928-7993.

E-mail: 101515.2702@compuserve.com

CANADA

Montreal: 4613 St. Laurent. Postal code: H2T 1R2. Tel: (514) 284-7369. E-mail: 104614.2606@compuserve.com

Toronto: 2761 Dundas St., Postal code: M6P 1Y4. Tel: (416) 767-3705.

E-mail: milpaththoronto@cs.com

Vancouver: #202D-4806 Main St. Postal code: V5V 3R8. Tel: (604) 872-8343. E-mail: clvancouver@cs.com

FRANCE

Paris: Centre MBE 175, 23 rue Lecourbe. Postal code: 75015. Tel: (01) 47-26-58-21. E-mail: 73504.442@compuserve.com

ICELAND

Reykjavik: Skolavordustig 6B. Mailing address: P. Box 0233, IS 121 Reykjavik. Tel: 552 5502. E-mail: milpth@mmedia.is

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: Suite 3, 7 Mason Ave., Otahuhu. Postal address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 276-8885.

E-mail: milpath.auckland@actrix.gen.nz

Christchurch: Gloucester Arcade, 129 Gloucester St. Postal address: P.O. Box 13-969. Tel: (3) 365-6055.

E-mail: pathfinder.militant@paradise.net.nz

SWEDEN

Stockholm: Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Postal code: S-113 42. Tel: (08) 31 69 33. E-mail: 100416.2362@compuserve.com

Logic?—A *Los Angeles Times* dispatch from a world coffee parley in London observed, "It would seem to defy capitalist logic." The



Harry Ring

world price of coffee beans has plunged down to about 50 cents a pound, the lowest in decades. But retail prices are still way up. One dealer explained that people generally drink just so much coffee a day, so what's to be gained by lowering prices?

They only produce it—The *Times* coffee reporter added: "All of this is bad news for the world's coffee farmers, the vast majority of whom are poor and working small holdings. They are the biggest losers in the collapse of world coffee prices."

Embarrassed under the influence?—Wade Stewart, a Denver area cop, resigned when he couldn't hold together his story that he had been shot with his own gun by a "light skinned Black" prowler. The story triggered a 133-cop area manhunt. Finally Stewart said that he had made up the story because he was too embarrassed to say his gun went off when he fell into a canal while chasing some teenagers. But the teenager story didn't

hold water either.

Hearing but not listening—At the 150-year-old Missouri School for the Deaf, students and parents demonstrated in protest against the continuing refusal of officials to appoint a deaf superintendent. When a non-deaf appointee backed out, officials passed over a deaf finalist and reopened the search.

'Justice'—Beset by exposures, Oklahoma County district attorney Robert Macy is quitting. During his 21 years in office, countless innocent people were imprisoned and a record 54 men and women were assigned to death row. Joyce Gilchrist, a police chemist, worked with Macy's office on 1,700 cases. Her testimony on semen, hair, etc.,

is now under FBI review. One man, convicted of rape, did 15 years. Recently he was released as innocent. The semen Gilchrist testified was his, was not.

Dinosaurs' club?—According to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, a campus leaflet at Stanford University was headed, "No dating at Stanford?" Issued by the Stanford Conservative Women's Coalition, it announced a talk on "Submission and Empowerment: Taking Back the Kitchen." The leaflet advised that if the sexes "embraced their traditional gender roles," the problem of getting a date would be nonexistent.

Like getting back home?—In England, jobs are available for driv-

ers to deliver lease cars. Wanted are "the smart, independent, resourceful type." The ad cautions, "The work will involve some hitch-hiking."

Sounds reasonable—Thirty Tennessee farmers and agriculture officials will visit Cuba in July, seeking trade. *USA Today* quoted dairy farmer Bob Strasser: "I don't want to go down there and be a savior and teach them how to be self-sufficient. I want to sell them food."

Mark it down!—As reported elsewhere, the Los Angeles Pathfinder Bookstore has moved to a new location. Clippings for use in this column should now be sent c/o Pathfinder Books, 4229 S. Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA. 90011.

How rulers use FBI as weapon against workers

The following is an excerpt from "Washington's fifty-year domestic contra operation," by Larry Seigle. The article addresses the stakes involved in the fight by workers and farmers against the assault by the FBI, CIA, and other U.S. political police agencies on democratic rights and political freedom. The entire article was published in issue no. 6 of the Marxist magazine *New International*. Copyright © 1987 by 408 Printing and Publishing Corp., reprinted by permission.

In the predawn hours of a Saturday in September 1939, FBI agents in Iowa and Nebraska simultaneously descended on the homes of union leaders in Omaha, Des Moines, and Sioux City. Teamsters union officials in the three cities were rousted from bed and placed under arrest. They were held on newly filed charges that accused them of burning a bakery truck during a strike in

theless concerned that progressive anticapitalist and anti-imperialist political positions advanced by class-struggle-minded union leaders were winning a hearing among a substantial section of the ranks of labor. Especially in times of crisis, such as war, minority points of view defended by established and respected working-class fighters could rapidly gain support.

With this in mind, the administration of President Franklin Roosevelt expanded and centralized federal police power.

During and after the Watergate scandals of the mid-1970s, the immense scope of FBI disruption, spying, and provocations against the people of the United States came to light in an unprecedented way. But the origins of these operations are not—as most commentators place them—in the spread of McCarthyism in the 1950s or in Washington's attempts to disrupt the anti-Vietnam War movement and social protests of the 1960s.

The fact is that these FBI operations began on the eve of the Second World War. They were central to preparations by the U.S. capitalist rulers to lead the nation into another carnage to promote their interests against their imperialist rivals and against the peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America struggling for liberation from colonial domination. These operations were directed against the leadership—and potential leadership—of the two major social forces in the United States that threatened to interfere with the ability of the U.S. ruling families to accomplish their objectives: the labor unions and the Black movement. The government's aim was to isolate class-struggle leaders who could provide guidance to a broader movement that might develop.

World War II had begun in Europe in September 1939—just a few weeks before the arrests of the Teamster leaders in Iowa and Nebraska. On September 1 Germany's armed forces invaded Poland. Two days later the British and French governments declared war on Germany. Washington proclaimed neutrality and would maintain this as its stated policy until Japanese naval air forces attacked Pearl Harbor in December 1941. But official neutrality was a cover allowing the Roosevelt administration and Congress to take concrete steps toward entry into the war, while avoiding the nationwide public discussion that would have been set off by a Senate debate over a proposed declaration of war.

The drive toward war necessitated an assault on working people at home and against democratic rights in general. Roosevelt gave FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover free rein to use the FBI against the labor movement and Black organizations. The White House and Justice Department secretly authorized many of the illegal methods used by the FBI and turned a blind eye toward others.

This authorization for the FBI to assume the functions of a political police force was done without legislation, which would have had to be proposed and debated in Congress. It was accomplished instead by "executive order," a device that was rapidly assuming a major place in the operations of the government and would increasingly become a major mode of governing in the decades to come.

On September 6, 1939, Roosevelt issued an executive order directing the FBI "to take charge of investigative work" in matters re-



Unionist announces settlement in 1934 Teamsters strike in Minneapolis. In response to rising labor militancy, President Franklin Roosevelt, at end of 1930s, expanded powers of FBI to spy, harass, and frame up union militants.

lating to "espionage, counterespionage, sabotage, subversive activities and violations of the neutrality laws." The key phrase was "subversive activities," and the most important decision was to include this slip-

pery concept in the list of responsibilities given the FBI. While there were federal laws against espionage, sabotage, and violation of U.S. "neutrality," no law explained what "subversive activity" might consist of.

—25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—

25 CENTS
THE MILITANT
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY/PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
June 11, 1976

When some steelworkers in Local 65 decided it was time for the membership to start running their union, they knew they were in for a fight.

Local 65 covers U.S. Steel's giant South Works in South Chicago. It's Ed Sadlowski's home local. Many of these workers had campaigned for Sadlowski when he challenged Sam Evett, hand-picked candidate of the national union bureaucracy, for district director in 1972-73.

Now they and others like them were fielding slates in local elections throughout the district. John Chico, Sadlowski's former campaign manager, would run for Local 65 president against incumbent Frank Mirocha, a machine stalwart.

Chico charged Mirocha with "iron fist" control over the local and with failure to stand up for the members.

Chico explained, "the company appears to be embarking on a program under which it can discipline a man on the job almost indiscriminately."

This wasn't so unusual, he said. What was unusual was for the union to "look the other way when the company openly and repeatedly violates the contract."

When Chico was nominated for president, Mirocha started yelling "Are you a Communist or a member of any totalitarian organization?"

Mirocha's heavy-handed conduct backfired, steelworkers said afterwards. "I've never seen such an outraged membership in all the years I've attended meetings," said Don Jordan. "I don't know what Mirocha expects to gain by pulling such stunts, but I'm sure he lost a lot of votes right there."

THE MILITANT
PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

June 11, 1951

The Stalinists themselves share blame for the heavy blow struck at the rights of the American people by the Supreme Court decision in the case of the 11 Communist Party leaders convicted under the Smith "Gag" Act.

They hailed the prosecution, conviction and imprisonment of 18 leaders of the Socialist Workers Party and Minneapolis CIO truck drivers under the very Smith Act of 1940 that the Stalinists later—and correctly—charged was a violation of the Bill of Rights when applied to themselves.

They aggressively opposed and tried actively to sabotage the campaign of the Civil Rights Defense Committee that won the support of unions representing five million members to the defense of the 18 Trotskyists imprisoned in 1944 under the Smith Act.

* * *

NEW YORK—James P. Cannon, National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, one of the first working-class leaders imprisoned under the Smith "Gag" Act in 1941, today issued the following statement:

"The Supreme Court decision upholding the Smith 'Gag' Act in the conviction of the 11 CP leaders is a deadly blow at the heart of the civil liberties of the American people. The Socialist Workers Party opposed the undemocratic law from the first and sought to alert and mobilize public opinion against it....

"There is only one way to combat reactionary attacks upon the rights of the American people. That is by united resistance to unjust laws, regardless of political differences. We intend to continue our 10-year campaign to remove this instrument of oppression from the statute books."

BOOK OF THE WEEK

Sioux City more than a year earlier.

Acting under the direction of the U.S. attorney general, the Justice Department in Washington, D.C., coordinated the FBI raids. The arrests occurred at a turning point in the U.S. class struggle—a turning point whose significance became fully clear only much later. The arrest of the Teamster leaders by the federal police marked the opening of the government's systematic use of the FBI as a weapon against class-conscious workers and farmers and against determined fighters against racist discrimination and national oppression in the United States. The response to the raids and arrests also marked the opening of the fight by the working-class vanguard to mobilize all defenders of democratic rights to oppose the FBI's subversion of the Bill of Rights....

For several years after the First World War, the FBI had functioned as a political police force, carrying out the arrest or deportation of some 3,000 unionists and political activists in 1920 (the infamous "Palmer Raids"). But following widespread protests over these and other FBI actions, and with the decline of the postwar labor radicalization, the capitalist rulers decided against a federal secret police agency. They relied instead on city and state cops with well-established "bomb squads" and "radical units" and on state national guard units in cases of extreme necessity. These local and state agencies had intimate connections with antilabor "citizens" organizations organized by the employers and with hated private detective agencies, such as the Pinkertons, with long experience in union busting.

By the mid-1930s, however, a vast social movement was on the rise, with the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) at the forefront. The relationship of forces was shifting in favor of working-class organizations. The bosses' old methods could no longer always be counted on. Communist perspectives did not come close to commanding majority support among working people, and in fact remained the views of a small minority, but the bosses were none-

NY ‘antiterror’ trial targets rights

The conviction in a U.S. court of four men who were seized by U.S. police agents in Africa and put on trial in New York for the 1998 bombing of the U.S. embassies in Tanzania and Kenya is a blow aimed against all working people, both at home and around the world. In pushing for the death penalty against two of the men, U.S. officials are seeking to intimidate anyone they deem a “terrorist,” that is, anyone who does not meet with the approval of the moneyed U.S. rulers.

Working people should reject Washington’s claim that it has the “right” to intervene in other nations to arrest, kidnap, and try anyone it wants. The four convicted men are from Tanzania, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia, as well as a Lebanese-born U.S. citizen.

And the U.S. rulers, who after the embassy blasts carried out brazen bombings of Sudan and Afghanistan in 1998, have no moral authority to talk about peace and justice—they are the number one terrorists in the world.

Washington will use the banner of “fighting terrorism” for its future military aggressions around the globe. U.S. officials are already floating other potential targets of attack. For example, FBI officials claim Iranian government personnel were involved in a 1996 attack at a U.S. military base in Saudi Arabia, but have not yet been able to put together what the *Washington Post* calls a “U.S.-style

criminal case”—that is, a legal facade for kidnapping and trying citizens from other countries in U.S. courts.

The *New York Times* editors piously professed concern over the fact that the FBI interrogated and extracted confessions from three of the men without any lawyer present, but then concurred with U.S. judge Leonard Sand’s ruling that the arrested men had been read their rights. In fact, U.S. cops interrogating one of the men, Mohamed Rashed Daoud al-Owhali, told him that if he demanded a lawyer he would be left in the hands of Kenyan authorities where, they said, “You will be hanged from your neck like a dog.”

The U.S. government is using “antiterrorism” trials to justify the introduction of measures that erode democratic rights, including the use of secret evidence, deportation of immigrants without due process, and stepped up use of the death penalty. The “antiterror” trial and planned execution of ultrarightist Timothy McVeigh—an unpopular target—is being used as a precedent to pave the way to go after others. Who will be next? The employers will seek to use the death penalty as a weapon of intimidation and terror against working-class fighters here and abroad.

Class-conscious workers must explain why our class has a stake in opposing this latest violation of democratic rights and national sovereignty by the U.S. government.

Tear down the fence!

Responsibility for the recent deaths of 14 undocumented workers seeking to cross the U.S.-Mexico border through the Arizona desert rests squarely on Washington and its anti-working-class immigration policies. The U.S. rulers are trying to deflect attention from their culpability by blaming smalltime immigrant smugglers. U.S. attorney general John Ashcroft, representing the class of billionaire sharks, even had the gall to condemn the smugglers “for putting profits before people.”

Hundreds of immigrant workers die every year trying to cross the border from Mexico, just as many Haitians drown trying to get to U.S. shores. In countries plundered by imperialist rule—from Mexico to Pakistan—millions of workers and peasants continue to be driven off the land and into the cities, often to the United States, in search of a livelihood.

This is the result of the normal functioning of capitalism, which pushes small farmers to ruin and into the ranks of the working class as U.S. capital draws labor from around the world to work in its fields and factories.

The U.S. employers and their government seek to maintain a permanent category of workers with minimal rights who can be more easily superexploited. That is the role of the immigration cops, the hated *migra*, who carry out factory raids and mass deportations to intimidate workers born abroad. Under the Clinton administration in particu-

lar, Washington has boosted the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) into the largest federal cop agency, has built miles of high metal fences along the border, and has increased the military presence on the border. As a result, workers crossing the border have been driven toward remote border crossings that expose them to extreme desert conditions. The bipartisan anti-immigrant scapegoating campaign also gives the green light to vicious attacks on immigrants by right-wing ranchers and other vigilantes.

Despite the efforts by the U.S. employer class to portray workers born abroad as criminals, or at best as tearful victims, immigrant workers are becoming increasingly confident to speak up, organize, and defend their dignity and rights, whether they have documents or not. From the day laborers in Long Island, New York, asserting their right to find work in the face of attacks by rightist thugs, to workers in California demanding the right to a driver’s license, to meat packers in Minnesota defending their union, these fellow workers strengthen our class. That is what the employers are afraid of.

The labor movement and its allies must condemn the attacks on immigrants taking place at the border, in the workplace, and elsewhere. We must join with these fellow workers to demand an end to all deportations and equal rights for all workers.

Behind the upsurge in Algeria

The ongoing demonstrations across the Kabylia region of Algeria and in the capital of that North African country are part of a growing number of struggles worldwide by workers and farmers against government assaults combined with the effects of the capitalist economic crisis. Berbers, an oppressed nationality that is the majority population of Kabylia, have been waging a fight against government repression, for the right to speak their language and other basic national rights. The mobilizations and the determination of the protesters to stand up for their demands gives openings to other working people in Algeria to do the same.

These mobilizations represent an important break in the 10-year-long civil war—which began when the government annulled elections won by the Islamic Salvation Front in 1991—in which 100,000 people have been killed, many as a result of government repression and right-wing attacks.

The recent mass actions, including a protest by hundreds of thousands May 21 in the city of Tizi Ouzou, are a response to a capitalist government that has pushed too far once too often. The mobilizations began in response to the death of an 18-year-old Berber high school student while in police custody, the latest of repeated abuses. Thousands took to the streets and battled cops in the city, galvanizing opposition to government brutality.

The actions have won support across the country, including among students in the capital who have staged their own demonstrations to back the demands of the Berbers. The protests have roots in the deteriorating economic conditions in the region, and demands for jobs, better housing, and an end to the growing impoverishment of workers and farmers have been raised at the dem-

onstrations as well.

Over the past month government forces have killed up to 80 people, mostly youth. Fearing the mobilizations, the solidarity they have won, and some of the truth coming out in the media, the regime issued sharp curbs on the press. A number of actions opposing press restrictions have been organized by journalists and their supporters.

Algeria, like every other semicolonial country under the boot of imperialism, is crushed by an enormous foreign debt, suffers from high unemployment, and is saddled with an economy and infrastructure condemned to underdevelopment by the workings of the imperialist system of exploitation and oppression. In addition, the government in France—Algeria’s former colonial master, whose ruling families retain extensive interests in oil and other resources there—backed the annulment of the 1991 elections and armed the military junta to carry out widespread repression.

The struggle being waged by the Berbers and other working people in Algeria deserves the support of workers and farmers worldwide. To appreciate the significance of these events, it is worth reading and studying the lessons of the Algerian Revolution—how working people there waged a successful revolutionary struggle against French colonial rule and brought to power a workers and farmers government in 1963, which lasted for several years. These lessons are contained in *The Workers and Farmers Government*, by Joseph Hansen; “The Fight for A Workers and Farmers Government in the United States,” in *New International* no. 4, by Jack Barnes; and *For a Workers and Farmers Government in the United States*, by Jack Barnes. The article by Mary-Alice Waters reprinted in this issue is a useful addition to this wealth of material.

‘Turn down line speed’

Continued from Page 5

down at first, and then brought it back up, but not up to point where it was. Now they are not running it at the speed it should be, but it is not as fast as they wanted to run it.”

He reported that “now they have been carrying out an ‘investigation.’ One by one, they have been taking us upstairs to the office, trying to get us to give names of people who supposedly organized the stoppage. But nobody has given them any names and no one has gotten fired.”

Barbara Morisch, a shop steward and kill floor production worker who has been in the plant for about two years, described the conditions that workers face. “It doesn’t matter how much you cry and plead to the company that the line speed is just too fast and working conditions are becoming increasingly more dangerous—they just force more and more on us.

“Workers are tired, got fed up, and said they couldn’t take it anymore,” Morisch reported. “So after lunch break, these workers who were all from boning, led by Mexicans and other Latinos, refused to go back to work until management met with them and assured them that the line speed would be turned down immediately.”

‘Great to see workers standing together’

“After the time allotted for the boning workers’ lunch was over,” she continued. “I went up to the lunchroom for a few minutes to show my support, and most of the workers were there sticking together as one. It was so, so, great to see all those workers together making a stand against the company for the conditions they force on us.”

“We [kill floor workers] are facing the same conditions as the workers in boning, which is the ever-increasing line speed,” Morisch said. “Co-workers are coming up to me and asking, ‘When are we going to do this [a work stoppage]? I try to explain about that clause in the contract that says we cannot strike, but that we need to discuss what we can do.

“We are putting out as many cattle in eight hours now—which is about 870 per day—as we did a year ago working more than 10 hours a day. The company has made it known they are trying to achieve 1,000 head of cattle a day in eight hours. I’m telling co-workers why it is so important to strengthen our union now! If we allow the way they are treating us to continue, things will get worse.”

Barbara Schneider, a worker on the boning floor, told the *Militant*, “I thought it was so great that all those workers refused to go back to work. It just made me feel so good to see everyone standing together in the plant.

“Management never listens to us. We have told management the line speed is going too fast, and all they do is just turn it up higher,” said Jerry Ludwig, chuck boner and chief shop steward on the boning floor.

He added, “This action really took management by surprise. They didn’t think workers were capable of doing anything like that. The company just pushes and pushes, thinking we will just take it. But they were wrong.”

Senator’s defection

Continued from Page 12

that states, “Democrats should use their new majority status to speak—and act—against the right-wing agenda Mr. Jeffords was protesting.” They criticize Bush’s Social Security and missile proposals, and attack his budget cuts.

However, their criticism of the Republicans’ Social Security proposals is that they are too “costly.” The debate between Democrats and Republicans shares the premise that Social Security—a basic entitlement of working people—must be “reformed.” While Carville and Begala criticize Bush’s plan for “hand[ing] over Americans’ retirement benefits to the vagaries of the stock market,” Democrats and Republicans alike make proposals that call for moving from an entitlement to private savings accounts for those individuals who can afford them, as well as a combination of cuts in pension benefits, increased employee taxation, and an older retirement age.

Similarly, the two Democratic commentators, echoed by the *New York Times* editors, oppose the Bush administration’s budget for, among other things, jeopardizing efforts “to put police officers on the street,” a hallmark of the Clinton administration.

Many measures Bush has been pressing for take as their starting point the actions and initiatives of the Clinton administration, such as the 1996 anti-immigrant law, the dismantling of welfare, moves to establish an “intelligence czar” as part of beefing up Washington’s political police, and calls for an antimissile system.

Appearing on “Meet the Press,” Daschle criticized Bush’s proposals for oil and gas exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, which would mean a bonanza for oil companies at the expense of the environment. But the Democrats have offered no alternative to it. Responding to attacks by Energy Department secretary Spencer Abraham recently, Democrats pointed out that the Clinton-Gore White House permitted more leasing and exploration on public land than any previous administration.

Democratic posturing notwithstanding, Bush has worked with the Democrats in Congress—as he did in the Texas legislature—to get his measures passed. Bush’s tax plan passed with the votes of 12 Democrats.

Socialist garment workers join struggles

Continued from Page 11

became involved in this fight.

"We have the challenge in all of our national trade union fractions of becoming more competent discussing the main political questions being debated on the job," said Norton Sandler, who attended the meeting for the party's Organization Bureau. "The so-called energy crisis is a prime example. The ruling-class's answer being promoted by the administration in the White House with backing from some on both sides of the aisles of the Senate and House is more pollution from fossil fuels, less regulations, more dirty power plants. They have no plan to deal with the deadly waste produced by nuclear power."

Many in the trade union officialdom have been meeting with the White House on this and they are going to back this plan as well, claiming it will create many new jobs. This is the logic of their narrow framework of expanding the amount of dues money coming into the union coffers at the expense of fighting for social demands that are in the interest of the working class a whole, Sandler said.

He pointed to the section of the new Pathfinder title *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* by Jack Barnes, containing immediate demands to advance the interests of the working class. "This is a program that answers the 'America first' nationalism of the union officials and their proposals to collaborate with 'our companies' to save 'our jobs,'" Sandler said.

Discussing social issues, energy crisis

Participants from several areas discussed the protests that have begun in many states over new laws that require workers to have a social security number in order to get a drivers license. This is a burning question for immigrant workers. "Many can only find day work because they don't have a drivers license," said Jacquie Henderson, a sewer in Houston. "But this is a broader attack on the entire working class as well and we have to take it up that way. It's a step toward imposing a national identity card, an expansion of the kind of police checks they want you to take for granted," she said.

Roberto Guerrero, a garment worker in New York and a leader of the Young Socialists, talked about protests in Brooklyn against the reopening of polluting coal-powered electrical generators in working-class neighborhoods where residents already suffer from high levels of asthma and other respiratory problems.

Two participants who work in different garment shops in the coal mining areas outside of Pittsburgh described the discussions in their workplaces over the effects of mining in those communities, from coal dust that covers everything, to mountain-top removal, to houses damaged by subsidence when the ground sinks because it's been mined underneath.

Potash noted that a striker from Hollander Home Fashions in California who attended the national congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC) at the end of April was an example of the toughening vanguard that is developing in this country.

"We encourage other workers to go to Cuba for one reason: the example the Cuban Revolution gives of what workers and farmers can do when they take power," said Potash, who attended the CTC congress. She noted that socialist workers did not bring co-workers with them to that important event, although the interest she found at work when she returned showed that it would have been possible.

Over the next month, socialists will be seeking out young people in the industry who they can work with to participate in the Cuba-U.S. Youth Exchange in July and the 15th World Festival of Youth and Students in Algeria in August. Participants at the meeting decided this is the best help they can give to the campaign under way to double the size of the Young Socialists this summer.

Meeting subscription goals

North Carolina textile worker Naomi Craine initiated discussion on the second day of the meeting, emphasizing that selling *Militant* subscriptions to co-workers and garment workers we meet at factory gates, on picket lines, or at union conferences, is at the heart of carrying out the perspectives of this fraction meeting.

The fraction results so far in the subscription campaign don't measure up to what's objectively possible, Craine explained. This is why the immediate challenge at hand is to campaign over the next two weeks to make 100 percent of the national fraction's goals of selling 35 subscriptions to the socialist newsweekly, the *Militant*, and 30 subscriptions to the Spanish-language *Perspectiva Mundial*, as well as selling 70 copies of the Pathfinder titles *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*, *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*, and *Pathfinder was Born with the October Revolution* to fellow garment, textile, and laundry workers. At the same time, socialists in the industry will work to bring several of these workers to the Active Workers

Conference, which the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialists are sponsoring in Oberlin, Ohio, June 14-17.

'What Is to Be Done?'

Several participants in the discussion noted that sales of the socialist press and Pathfinder books are part of raising the broadest social and political questions enabling workers who are coming into struggle today to move beyond the level of trade union consciousness and see the need for workers and farmers to take political power.

They noted how this is explained in *What Is to Be Done* by V.I. Lenin. Written in 1902, it is one of the founding documents of the Bolshevik party, which led the first successful socialist revolution 15 years later. Lenin

argues in this book that workers cannot generalize the need to take power from economic struggles alone. Communists represent "the working class, not in its relation to a given group of employers alone but in its relation to all classes of modern society and to the state as an organized political force."

What Is to be Done? "is about building a vanguard party that can lead the working class to lead the vast majority to power, to be a tribune of the people," said Andrea Morell, a textile worker from Boston. "Our job is to be broadly politicizing ourselves, on the job and in every way."

Naomi Craine is a member of UNITE Local 1501 in North Carolina. Nan Bailey is a garment worker in Los Angeles.

Socialist miners and movement in coalfields

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there last year.

In eastern Pennsylvania, anthracite miner Beth Francis explained that socialist workers moved deeper into the coalfields there and as a result found themselves more a part of the working-class resistance, linking up with garment workers who went out on strike at Hollander and also winning miners to read the *Militant*.

The meeting of socialists working in the mines took up some of the changes taking place in the coal industry. With the price of coal rising rapidly in the last several months, there has been increased hiring in the mines. Forrester pointed to a recent article in the *Wall Street Journal* noting that this job growth "has emboldened miners." The *Journal* reported one Kentucky coal boss as complaining, "If they don't like the way you talk to them or don't like the work you give them, then they up and leave." In the last year, the number of miners working in Kentucky has grown by more than 1,000.

This mood has been reflected in other ways, such as renewed activity around union organizing and discussions on how miners can effectively fight for their rights. A recent industry newsletter had a headline saying, "Wild market gives the UMWA stronger hand."

Miners from the eastern and western coalfields discussed at the meeting how at the same time as there is a growth in hiring, the coal bosses continue to drive on production, and through the increased use of contractors, attempt to divide workers and increase their profits. Participants reported on one nonunion mine in Colorado where workers can be hired on as permanent, temporary, or work for a contractor—all with different wage and benefit levels.

This production drive also results in worsening safety conditions on the job. Just prior to the meeting, the eighth mining fatality for the year occurred at an Illinois mine where one of the miners at the meeting had previously worked.

The meeting also discussed the Bush administration's recent appointment of David Lauriski to head the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). An article in *Coal Age*, an industry magazine, noted that Lauriski was the safety director at the Wilberg mine in Utah at the time of the 1984 disaster that claimed 26 lives. Miners at the meeting pointed out that this was the worst disaster in 30 years.

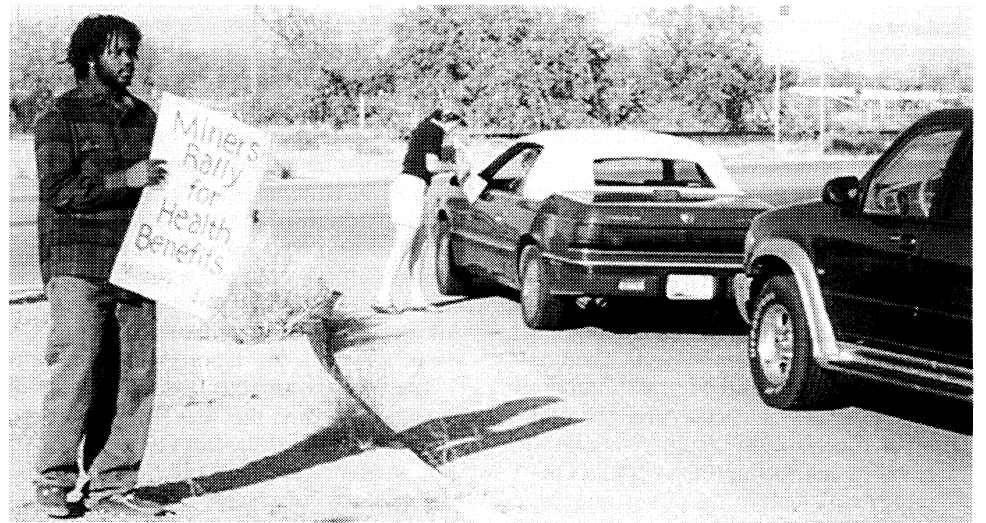
Meeting participants discussed how the UMWA will become stronger as a result of the changing composition of the workforce, with many young miners getting jobs and the coal bosses looking to bring immigrant workers from Mexico, Russia, and the Ukraine into the mines. One newspaper article quoted at the meeting reported on a group of workers from Honduras who had recently taken coal mine training in eastern Kentucky.

"Immigrant workers beginning to get mining jobs is part of the changing face of the working class in this country," Forrester said, "which strengthens the entire working class." In Colorado, which is in the heart of the western coalfields, the population has grown by 30 percent in the last 10 years and the Hispanic population has grown by more than 70 percent. A quarter of the population there is under 18 years old.

The meeting also began a discussion around how communist workers should respond to the debate that is opening up on the energy plans of the capitalists—the push

for nuclear power, expansion of oil drilling, and coal mining. Forrester explained that these questions "have to be approached from the point of view of a working-class leadership that is serious about the development of the whole world and how to do that safely—for the benefit of humanity not profits for the capitalists."

A number of participants in the meeting noted that many union officials are standing behind Washington's energy policies, no matter how detrimental for the working people, to get some crumbs of jobs from the capitalists' table. They pointed to the Ma-



Militant/Carole Lesnick

Young Socialists sell *Militant* to coal miners in New Mexico.

chinists union's stance in support of Washington's plan to develop and deploy a missile defense system, and the UMWA leadership's response that President George Bush's energy policy is "welcome news," as examples of this. These positions taken by the union officialdom reflect narrow interests and weaken the unions.

Socialist coal miners noted that many mining communities are fighting the effects of a number of environmental disasters—from gas spills in the anthracite region to mountain top removal mining in West Vir-

mental destruction and its antiunion stance.

The socialist coal miners also discussed ways to financially strengthen the work of the communist movement. The meeting set a goal of doubling the number of socialist miners pledging more than \$50 a week, and increasing by two the number of those pledging more than \$75 a week. One coal miner is already in the over \$100 a week club.

Tony Lane is a member of United Mine Workers of America Local 1248 in southwestern Pennsylvania.

Southern Illinois miner killed by rock fall

BY JEREMY ROSE

A miner was killed as the result of a rock fall at the Eagle Valley Mine, operated by Coal Miners, Inc., near the small town of Equality in southern Illinois. Gary Hays died the evening of May 23, 2001, from injuries received earlier the previous day during the graveyard shift where he worked in the #5 seam.

The Eagle Valley Mine is owned by Sugar Camp Coal. Black Beauty Coal Co. holds the controlling interest in Sugar Camp. The mine is slated to close in about a year when reserves are exhausted. Sugar Camp has begun preliminary work to open another mine in the area.

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) and other government agencies have investigated Hays's death and will make its findings public soon. According to one miner, Hays, a repairman, was lubricating a continuous mining machine when a large rock fell out of the roof overhead, crushing his skull against the machine. Co-workers administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation and rushed him out of the mine. He was flown to a hospital in Evansville, Indiana, where he was in a coma for nearly two days.

Richard Mottershaw, director of the Of-

fice of Mines and Minerals in Springfield, Illinois, told the Harrisburg, Illinois, *Daily Register*, that the preliminary investigation pointed to "soft adverse top conditions" and was recommending additional roof bolts be installed in the area before further mining continues.

Hays had worked for some 20 years in coal mines in the area. He started at the Eagle Valley Mine around a year ago, but only recently returned after a six-month lay-off. Unlike many laid-off miners who had found other jobs in nearby Illinois and Indiana mines and who decided not to come back when recalled, Hays returned to Eagle Valley because of the hour-and-a-half drive he was making during the interim. He lived in Herod, Illinois, a small town only a few miles from the mine.

In 1999, James Ferrell was killed at Eagle Valley when he was struck by a falling rock while riding out of the Davis seam in an open personnel carrier after cleaning up a more serious rock fall above a belt line a short distance from the working face in the #3 Section.

Hays was the ninth fatality in a U.S. coal mine so far this year. Six of these workers died in West Virginia mines.

Asian youth organize defense patrols against rightists, cop attacks in UK

BY PAUL DAVIES
AND JONATHAN SILBERMAN

OLDHAM, England—In response to racist assaults by ultrarightist thugs in a largely Asian area of Oldham, a town near Manchester, young people took to the streets to defend their communities and protest the attacks. On the evening of May 29, about 50 young Asians were gathered in the main center of Glodwick, an area in Oldham where many residents are of Pakistani origin. Cars with four passengers cruised the area. The young people were engaged in what has become a nightly patrol of this area after a series of rightist assaults.

"Sometimes it's the National Front [NF] or Combat 18 who come into town from other areas," said Ashraf Mir, who was with his brother Razmiah, both aged 17. "At other times, local youth get psyched up by the NF. They attack property and hurl abuse at local people. When we respond, the cops come in riot gear assaulting the Asian youth."

"The police want to teach us a lesson. They never even bothered to arrest me, they just beat me up," said bus driver Wassim Saddiq as he displayed his wounds. Saddiq explained that he was standing outside his house at the time, just watching what was going on. Through his beating at the hands of the cops he suffered broken teeth, a black eye, and police dogs were allowed to maul his arms.

These events took place during nighttime hours of May 26 when 500 Asian youth took to the streets in defense of their communities. Big-business newspapers and TV around the world reported that the Asian youth had rioted, hurling petrol bombs in their wake.

"My father saw it on CNN in Bangladesh," said Shahedal Alam, 22, of the Oldham Bangladeshi Youth Association, "and called me to find out if I was OK. I regret the violence but the police must take responsibility for what happened."

In fact, it was a physical assault by rightist thugs on the home of the Azam family in Glodwick that resulted in the self-defense mobilization by local residents. The racists threw a brick through the window of the house, narrowly missing Jamshad Azam and her pregnant daughter, Fareeda. The gang

then burst into the house. Both women were taken to the hospital.

"The police were supposed to come to arrest the white youth but they didn't get here until half an hour after they were called. When they arrived they came after us," added Jay Ali. "The police used tear gas and beat us. This is our area. We're not looking for trouble but we're going to protect it. Why do the police keep coming? To provoke us."

"The police are racist," said Shahjalal Uddin, 15. "They shouted, 'get the black bastards.' My friend got head-butted and another friend got beaten in a police cell after being arrested."

For some months there has been a campaign, led by the Oldham police and dramatically reported by the media, alleging a rise in so-called racist assaults by Asians against whites. Claims have been made that Asian youth are trying to establish "no-go" areas barring whites. The target of this campaign is militant youth of Asian descent who are standing up to attacks. "We are not prepared to put up with the racism faced by our parents and grandparents when they came to Britain in search of work," explained Shahedal Alam. "We're not afraid to tackle the discrimination, poverty, and unemployment we face. Most young Asians were born and brought up in this country and consider themselves British-Asians."

Alam described the blatant job discrimination on a construction site for a new community cultural center near the Youth Association. "There are 25 workers on the site. All are white in an area that is 95 percent Asian," he said.

The state is also attempting to recoup ground lost when the MacPherson report, which investigated the killing of Black student Stephen Lawrence, concluded that the Metropolitan Police was "institutionally racist." Shahedal Alam commented that many British-Asian youth joke that local police chief superintendent Eric Hewitt should be chief superintendent of the National Front.

Local residents said allegations of "Asian racism" and violence are being made to justify saturation and brutal "zero tolerance" policing. Every night over the last few days,



Militant/Jonathan Silberman

Residents of Oldham, England, talk with Paul Davies, center, *Militant* reporter and Communist League Parliamentary candidate for North Southwark and Bermondsey. In response to racist attacks by rightist thugs and cops, young Asians have organized nightly patrols to defend their communities and protest the attacks.

dozens of cops in riot gear have been routinely deployed in Oldham. On occasions as many as 500 cops were on the streets in this town of 220,000 to enforce a government ban of all protest marches in the town.

No Asian is too young to face cop harassment, residents say. Kaer Usman, 13, a student at Breeze Hill School, was one of four Asian youths arrested after they stood up to abuse from a racist gang that had entered the school from outside. None of the racists were picked up.

The Oldham events have become part of the debate in the upcoming general election. Home Secretary Jack Straw, of the Labour Party, went on television to praise the actions of the Greater Manchester police. He joined Tory leader William Hague in criticizing Simon Hughes, Liberal-Democrat member of Parliament for North Southwark and Bermondsey, who said that recent com-

ments by Conservative Party leaders have emboldened racist elements. Norman Tebbit, a right-wing Tory and former member of Margaret Thatcher's government, said the Oldham events showed that a multicultural society doesn't work.

Paul Davies is the Communist League Parliamentary candidate for North Southwark and Bermondsey. Paul Galloway contributed to this article.

Communist League candidate joins postal workers' picket line

LONDON—Paul Davies, Communist League candidate for the London constituency of North Southwark and Bermondsey in the general elections, joined a picket line of striking postal workers as well as a Communication Workers Union demonstration to protest the threatened closure of the North London delivery office.

Davies, a member of the Transport and General Workers' Union at the General Motors IBC plant in Luton, has rallied with his co-workers against thousands of job cuts by GM. "In the face of rising layoffs, the labor movement needs to fight for jobs for all through a shorter working week with no loss of pay," Davies said.

Speaking at a May 25 Militant Labor Forum in London, Davies stated, "The rolling strike of the postal workers shows how the deepening assaults of the rulers are driving the resistance by working people. The strike by the postal workers is an example to other workers."

"This is particularly important today when the capitalist rulers are going after 'public sector spending.' What they mean is the social wage that working people have won in struggle, and in this case the right to free health care and hospital treatment. They want to go after our social wage and drive down the value of what all workers earn."

Davies pointed to Cuba, where workers and farmers made a revolution and hold political power, as an example of how working people can put an end to the entire system of exploitation.

—S.H.

Postal workers wage strike in Britain

BY SHEILA HUGHES

LONDON—Some 15,000 postal workers joined strike actions across the country here May 23. The labor dispute began a week earlier when 800 members of the Communication Workers Union (CWU) walked out of the depot in Watford, northwest of London. The strike, taken after a vote by union members, protested the imposition of more night work and earlier mornings by the Royal Mail.

When the company sent the struck work to Liverpool for sorting, postal workers there refused to touch it. When some were disciplined for this action—deemed unofficial by the bosses—workers in other areas refused to handle the mail and walked off the job in solidarity. By May 24, 19 mail centers and 72 delivery offices from all corners of the United Kingdom had joined the strike.

With a backlog of 50 million letters sitting in sealed post boxes and solidarity action spreading countrywide, Royal Mail bosses backed off. They agreed to negotiations over proposed changes and withdrew disciplinary action against the Liverpool workers.

As workers walked out around the country, the big-business *London Evening Standard* bemoaned, "It is threatening to develop into the first national postal strike for five years." Government officials, alarmed by the solid response by postal workers, called for an end to the dispute, arguing that it threatened to disrupt delivery of polling and postal registration cards

in time for the June 7 general election.

Speaking at a CWU rally in North London May 26, Liverpool strike committee member Jane Loftus declared, "In seven days, look what we've achieved, not by 'legal' channels but by our strikes. That's the best way to defend ourselves and our jobs."

She was met with applause, cheers, and foot-stomping from the postal workers, who were mostly from the local North London delivery office (NDO) in Islington.

Like other mail depots in London, the NDO, which employs 1,600 workers, is threatened with closure and with jobs being moved to outer areas, beyond the reach of most of the workforce. NDO union members are balloting for strike action against this job attack. Their rally followed a spirited demonstration of around 300 workers against the closure.

Angie Mulcahy, a postal worker from East London, told *Militant* reporters why a delegation from her depot had brought solidarity to the NDO demonstration. "This has been building up for two years," she said. "The Royal Mail has been bullying us and there have been local disputes all over the place, on different issues. Now we've had enough. It has come to breaking point. That's why there were rolling spontaneous actions across the country this week." The *Daily Mail* has reported that half the days lost to strikes last year came in the postal services.

Mulcahy remarked, "They are trying to run this public service for profit and

they're pushing us more and more. They want to privatize it." Her workmate John said, "They're ignoring the union. We represent the will of the workers. We're not necessarily against changes, but they can't just impose them."

Derek Francis said, "I'm on the demonstration today because if we don't do something they'll close us down. We came out on strike with Watford and Liverpool as basic solidarity. If we don't support them, how can we expect their backing when we take action ourselves?"

Hasain Miye, a postal worker from another part of north London, joined the NDO demonstration. I think they want to close the NDO because the union there is strong," said Miye. He pointed to a common Royal Mail practice of employing casual (temporary) labor, sometimes on a daily basis. He estimated that around 150 of the 200 casual workers at the NDO joined the strike, even though they are not in the union. The CWU in London is also considering a strike ballot of 15,000 delivery workers for a shorter, five-day workweek and improved earnings.

Under a headline "Postmen: Back To The Bad Old Days," the *Daily Mail* complained, "The strikes recall the dark days of militancy in the old-style public services. Other recent union actions have the same roots. A damaging series of strikes by London Tube [subway] workers is continuing and there was a one-day stoppage earlier this week by college lecturers."